

The
Cat Spring
Story



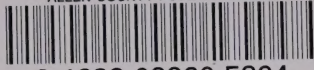
Cat Spring
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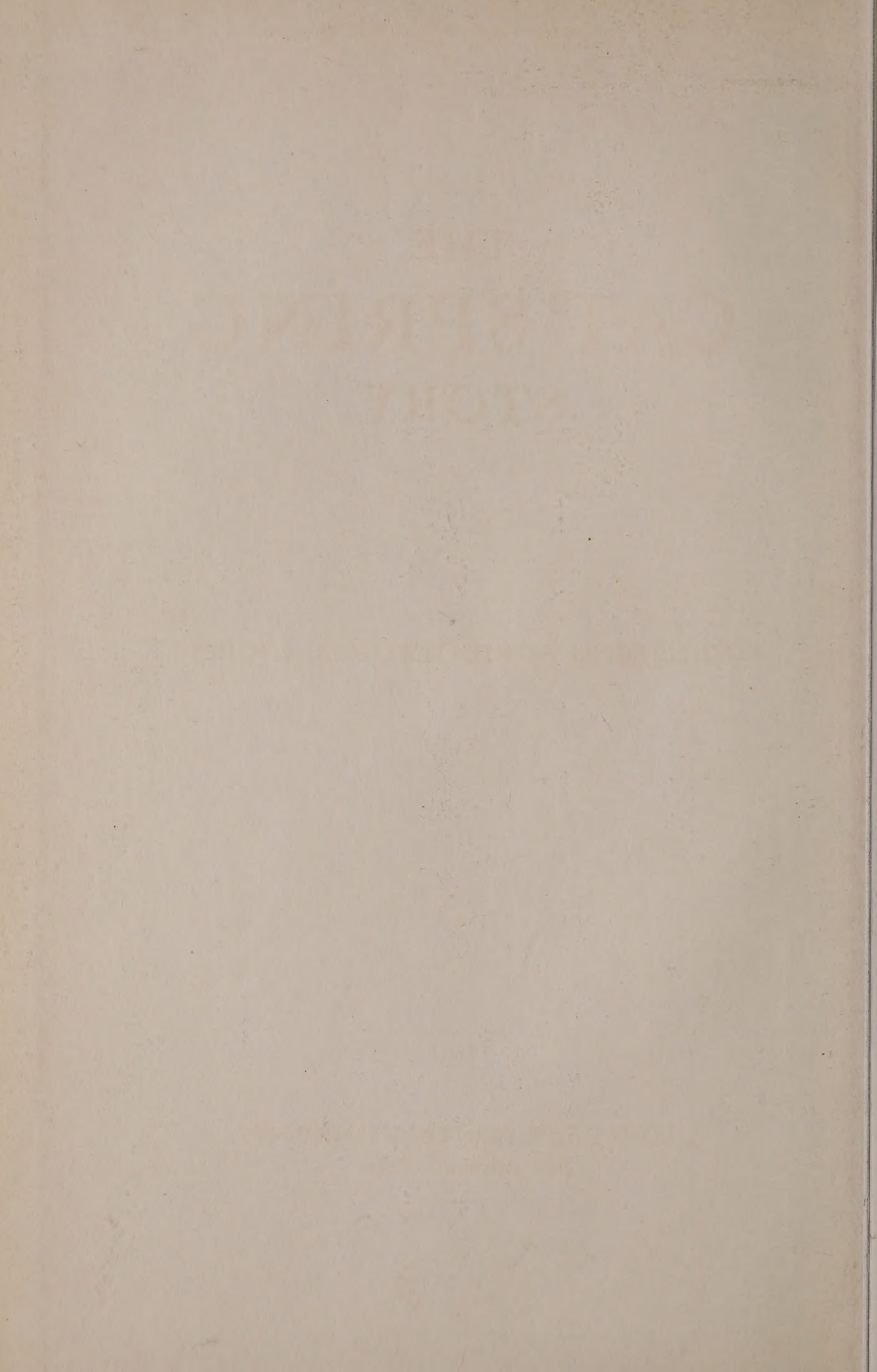
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THE CAT SPRING STORY

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Dedicated to the early pioneers who fearlessly
forged their way into a wilderness in their
search for political and economic security.

Acknowledgments

MEMBERS OF CAT SPRING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY are indebted to Johanna Rosa Engelking for months of effort in gathering facts on the families of the early settlers of Cat Spring and their descendants; to E. P. Krueger for his painstaking search for material on the early history of agriculture in the Cat Spring area; to Professor Rudolph Leopold Biesele for his chapter on early German settlements in Texas; to Miss Ellen Kloss who assisted in gathering material, and to the Centennial Historical Committee of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society:

Wm. E. A. Meinscher, Chairman

Edmund Reibenstein

J. E. Schaffner

Walter Hillboldt

W. N. Williamson

Arthur L. Schuette

Mattie Della Mahnke, Secretary,

who contributed generously of their time in planning and gathering material for this book telling the Cat Spring Story.

Introduction

THIS IS THE INTRIGUING STORY of one of the earliest successful German settlements in Texas.

Cat Spring is in Austin County, a few miles southwest of the county seat, Bellville. Soils range from deep sand and sandy loams to heavy mixed soils. The rolling prairie-type land made it easy to start farming. Water was available for livestock and domestic uses. Near the original settlement is a large spring. It is reported that someone killed a wildcat nearby and it was first called Wildcat Spring but was later shortened to Cat Spring (Katzenquelle).

Many names still prominent in the life of Texas are found in the original list of those who first settled here in the early 1830s; names such as Von Roeder, Kleberg, Hintz, Eckelberg, Amsler, Mueller, Welhausen, Meyer, Engelking, Reibenstein, Trenckmann, Vornkahl, Regensbrecht, Keuffel and Rinicke. Charles Nagel, born near Cat Spring in 1849, was Secretary of Commerce and Labor under President Taft.

The settlement was founded in 1832 when Austin County had a population of about a thousand people. The little town began to grow and by 1880 it had a gin, a saw mill, a grist mill and a planing mill. There was also a hotel, a saddle shop, a shoe shop, a school and a church.

Settlers of Teutonic origin came from various parts of Western Europe. Frequently mentioned in the minutes and in related literature are such localities as Hanover,

Westphalia, Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Hamburg and Saxony. Others came later from Switzerland and Moravia.

Not far from Cat Spring was Austin's colony on the Brazos River, a group of Anglo-Saxon people almost in its entirety. Yet Cat Spring and San Felipe developed almost simultaneously, one with an Anglo-Saxon background and the other Teutonic. The cultures of these two people were entirely different. They did not even speak the same language. They were not members of the same church. Their dress, their food habits, their manners and customs differed widely. However, the two groups were in complete agreement on one fundamental principle — democracy. Anglo-Saxon settlements in the United States already had tasted freedom of speech, of the press and of religion. But this was something new in the lives of the German immigrants. They had been subjected in the old country to political bondage, compulsory military training in peace time, wars, and a type of serfdom that approached the old feudal system. Because of this they came to America seeking those things that Americans had so long enjoyed. They found it, and stayed.

One hundred years later very little of the old town remains. Remnants of foundations can still be seen but nothing of the original Cat Spring is intact.

About 1895 when the railroad came through, the town was moved to a new location. It is still a small town but it has a post office, several stores, two rural mail carriers and a telephone system.

These early people were strong believers in the principle of self-help. To them there was no substitute. The present generation still believes in this principle. It is not unusual to visit one of these German homes now and find the farmer repairing his own farm machinery or building a barn. These people have been known to work together to build a bridge to withstand the most severe type of flood; yet they asked for no outside help.

A desire to improve themselves socially, politically and economically, was the motivating force that caused these people to leave their homeland. Since Napoleon's time things had not gone well in Western Europe. These people had the courage to break their home ties and cast their lot with other pioneers in Texas.

Although these early settlers were well educated, they knew little about agriculture. Their determination to learn found final expression in the organization of the Austin County Agricultural Society (Landwirth-schaftlicher Verein). All original minutes of this society still exist. From the date of organization until April 1941, these minutes were written in German. They have now been translated into English and are published in another volume.

An anonymous writer in 1883 described these people in his own language for the Austin County Times. Mr. E. A. Miller of Bryan, Texas, translated this article which reads in part:

"Even in earlier days, Texas seemed to have a wonderful attraction for German settlers. Here Germans have found a new Fatherland. Here you see flaxen-haired boys and girls. Their rosy complexions show that the Texas summer heat has not harmed them. You will find on the shady porch of many homes the welcoming of new families with friendship, encouragement and rest. You see the leisurely Saxon with the broad Rhinelander or the Pfalzer with the Schwalien, the Holsteiner with the neighborly Mecklenburger, together with a mixture of Bohemians, Czechs and Swiss, all living together peacefully. So these people from middle Europe are building in our county a land of welcome.

"In even greater numbers came the German immigrants after the political battles in Germany during 1848 and 1849. This caused quite a variety of political exiles, some of whom were noblemen, some small farmers, and others.

"With the influx of more immigrants, land values went

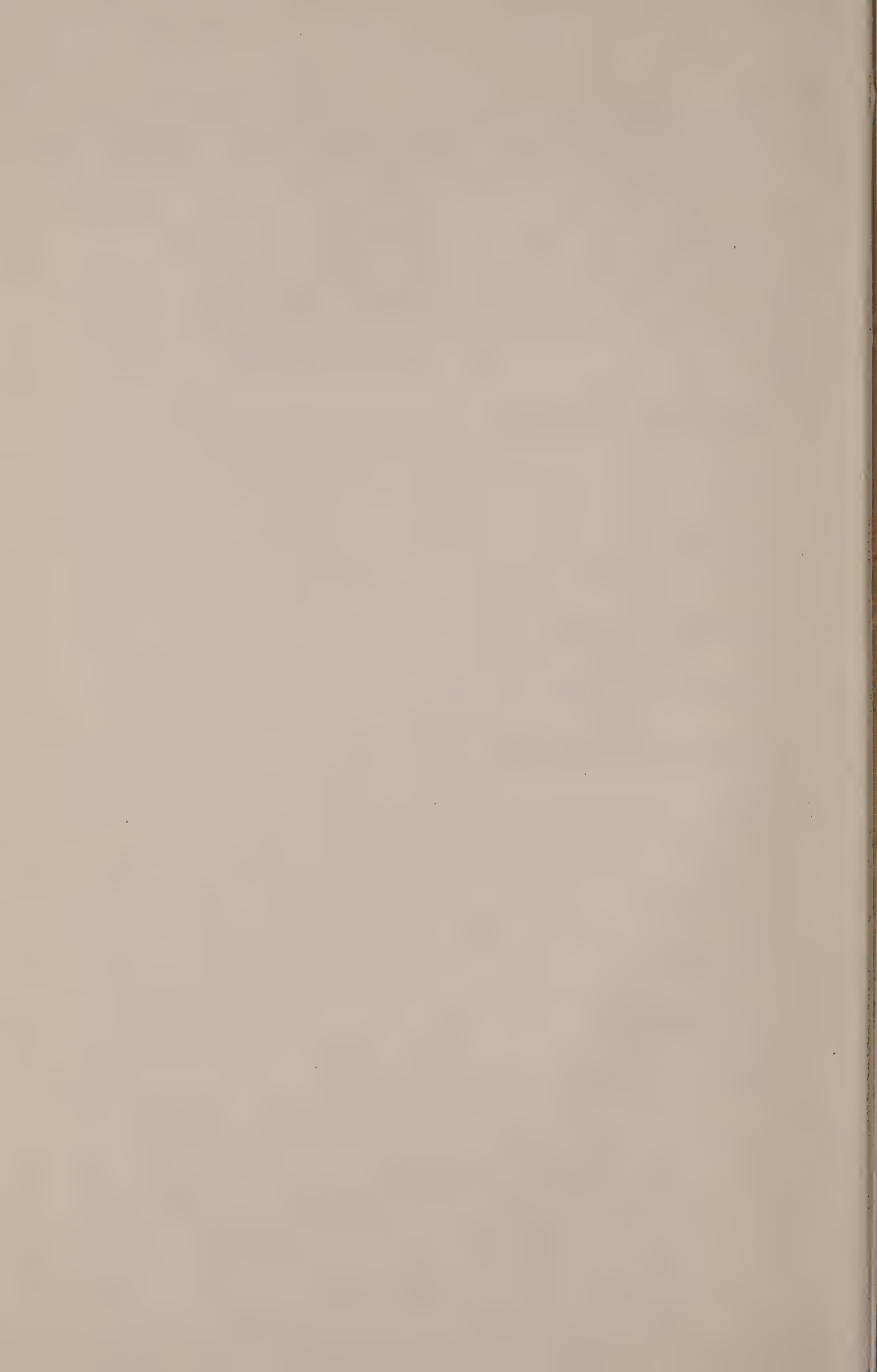
up and cotton became an important crop. Many of the log houses were replaced by better frame houses. Through growing and selling cotton farmers became more prosperous.

"The younger generation now hardly realizes that their parents came from so many different parts of the world. It is our hope and ambition that our State and our county will continue to develop and that our people will continue to have good government."

W. N. Williamson

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THE CAT SPRING STORY

Once Upon a Time . . .

JUST HOW THE NAME of Cat Spring became established is not known for certain. The first night after the Von Roeder family landed in the Austin Colony of Texas, they pitched camp near a clear, never-failing spring on which settlers were depending for their water supply. Tradition has it that a son of the Von Roeders saw a wildcat near the spring that evening and the family promptly gave it the name "Katzenquelle" (Cat Spring).

Others say the name originated from the fact that a large tract of timberland surrounding the spring was the natural home of the wildcat; hence, the name of Cat Spring, or as it came to be known as Wildcat Spring.

But the United States Post Office Department has a way of settling differences of opinion regarding names. When a post office was established December 13, 1953, the official name given the settlement was Cat Spring.

Newcomers to the Cat Spring area in the 1830's and 1840's included such note-worthy names as von Roeder, C. Welhausen, F. Laas, Jacob Kinkler, John Glaum, Christ. Dittert, C. Palm, Amsler, Kleberg, Kloss, Trenckmann, Amther, Bergmann, Maetze and others.

These families not only began to carve an agricultural

empire for themselves, but they soon accepted the opportunities coming to them in establishing businesses that would service the agriculture of the region. Louis von Roeder, for instance, built the first grist mill and Robert Kleberg built the first store in 1834. C. C. Amsler established the famous Amsler Inn which, during its heyday, entertained such royal guests as Prince Solms, Castro and Meusebach who rested here on their journeys from Harrisburg to New Braunfels and Fredericksburg.

Amsler also built a cotton gin and a grist mill powered by oxen and later by steam. This gin was eventually sold to F. Schlapota. Stores were established in Cat Spring by Hassler and Kinkler, and by Langhammer.

In 1850, H. Langer built a saw mill, and F. Laas built another cotton gin and grist mill. Fedor Soder rebuilt the gin building and used it for a store. This was the same store building later used by Rev. E. Bergmann for a church.

The first blacksmith shop in Cat Spring was started by Karl Palm and Jacob Peshek. A saddle and harness shop was opened by Kollatschney. The first doctors were Dr. H. Nagel and Dr. F. A. Schmidt.

With the background of culture brought to Cat Spring by the early settlers, it was logical that the pioneers would begin looking about for educational opportunities and facilities for their children. They began an active campaign to establish a German university at Cat Spring. President Houston of the fledgling Texas Republic looked with favor upon the enterprise, and the Texas Congress issued a franchise on January 27, 1844 to establish Hermann University at Cat Spring. Money would be raised by selling shares of stock at \$50.00 each and Texas gave the University a large land grant.

Incorporators for the University were L. C. Erdvenburg, F. Ernst, H. S. Schmidt, H. Amthor, J. G. Lieper, G. Stoehr, F. W. Huesmann, and E. Franke.

The shares of stock were offered for sale to the public.

The people were eager to buy the shares, but they had no money—only land to offer in exchange for the stock. But the University was already land poor, and when cash was not forthcoming, the franchise was annulled in 1846.

Not for long, however, did these pioneers abandon their plan for a University. The franchise was renewed April 11, 1846, with incorporators as follows: H. Amther, E. Franke, H. Draub, H. Ernst, Jacob Rien, E. Miller, E. H. Yordt, Dr. E. Becker, William Trieb, Charles Yordt, Herman Frels and Ed. Ruhmann. Price of shares had been reduced to \$15.00, and with better sales at the lowered price, they were able to construct a two-story stone building.

For some reason unknown at this time, the university was located at Frelsburg, 20 miles west, rather than at Cat Spring. The building was later used as a public school rather than as a university, and the building was destroyed by fire in 1926. It was rebuilt with funds from the sale of land which was still held by the school.

Although discouraged by events stemming from the university efforts, the pioneers began private schools. Among the early teachers were Rev. E. Bergmann, Adolphus Fuchs and Ernest Maetze. Rev. Bergmann held his school in a log cabin near the present site of the Kollatschney cemetery.

The first Public School Society was organized December 1, 1875 when 51 farmers, doctors and businessmen met for this purpose. The first unofficial board of trustees consisted of Samuel Gloor, president; C. Dittert, treasurer; and Dr. F. A. Schmidt, secretary. These temporary officers were elected January 1, 1877. Then on August 17, 1878, the county judge appointed H. Sens, Chas. Dittert and Joe Hirsch as first official trustees.

The same thirst for knowledge that prompted the establishment of formal education was also present to encourage the beginning of the Cat Spring Agricultural So-

ciety. These men, better fitted for the drawing room than for plowing and cultivating the soil, and often referred to as book farmers by less learned but more experienced neighbors, eagerly sought any information that would enable them to more efficiently till their soil. They had been accustomed in their homeland to use servants for farm work. Now, they found themselves the fore-runners of the modern "do-it-yourself" vogue.

How they conducted their meetings and insisted on experiments as a basis of adoption of agricultural practices have been published in another volume by the Cat Spring Agricultural Society.

The wildcats which gave the settlement its name have given way to growing of domestic animals and the timberlands that harbored them have been cleared for growing crops. But the stamina and vision of the progressive people remain.

Come Live in Our Town

GERMAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE LOWER BRAZOS, COLORADO, AND GUADALUPE RIVERS, 1831 - 1861

FOR THE PERIOD covered in the title of this chapter, German settlements were made in the counties of Austin, Colorado, Washington, Fayette, DeWitt, and Victoria. In such counties as Bastrop, Lavaca, Calhoun, Matagorda, Harris, and Galveston a number of German settlers made up a part of the population, as the census figures for 1850 and 1860 reveal. For the last six counties named the census figures for 1860 indicate a German element ranging from six percent in Lavaca County to 30 and 31 percent, respectively, in the counties of Galveston and Harris. In the first six counties the percentages range from 20 in Austin County to 32 in DeWitt County.

In another area of Texas, German settlements were made in the counties of Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, Gillespie, and Llano, but the story of their founding is not of any immediate relation to this book. In this upper region, in the neighboring counties of Bexar, Medina, Travis, and Mason, the census of 1850 and 1860 reveals a German element in the population reaching from as low as eight percent in Travis County to as high as 46 in Mason County. In the counties of this upper region with German settlements the percentage reaches from ten per-

cent in Llano County to 81 and 85, respectively, in Kendall and Comal County.¹

In the area indicated in the title of this chapter the first settlement to come into existence was Industry in Austin County. Its name was chosen by the American settlers of the community as a tribute to the industrious and enterprising spirit of Friedrich Ernst, its founder. In one respect its founding date is April 16, 1831, for on that date Friedrich Ernst received a league of land on the west side of the west fork of Mill Creek in Stephen F. Austin's colony, but actually the town was not laid out until 1838. Ernst's travel companion to Texas was Charles Fordtran.

Ernst arrived in New York in 1829 and intended to settle there. In fact, John Jacob Astor, the founder of Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River on the Pacific coast in 1824 in the present state of Oregon, tried to sell Ernst a dairy farm on the East River in New York. Ernst kept a boarding house in New York for about a year and during this time, it is alleged, he read Gottfried Duden's book, *Bericht ueber eine Reise nach den westlichen Staaten Nordamerika's und einen mehrjaehrigen Aufenthalt am Missouri* (in den Jahren 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827).

The reading of Duden's book made Ernst decide to go to Missouri, and he persuaded Charles Fordtran to accompany him. At New Orleans a fellow-passenger gave Ernst a pamphlet containing a description of Texas, probably a prospectus of Austin's Colony. Ernst changed his plans and went to Texas where he landed at Harrisburg on April 1, 1831. An ox cart carried him and Fordtran to San Felipe de Austin, fifty miles inland.²

One of the immediate effects of Ernst's going to Texas was that other German families followed him. Ernst's long letter to a friend in Oldenburg was published in a newspaper in Oldenburg and was widely read.

1.—Rudolph Leopold Biese, *The History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861*, pp. 61 and 163. Further footnotes in this chapter will be given as Biese, *op. cit.*, and the sources of information can be found on the pages listed.

2.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 43.

This letter pictured Texas in glowing terms. It described the land and the climate. The wild flowers gave the prairies a festive beauty. It was easy to raise all the livestock necessary, and a cow and a calf sold for \$10.00. An acre of land produced from 30 to 40 bushels of corn.

Among those who settled near Ernst's farm in 1832 and 1834 were the families of William Bartels, Zimmer-scheid, J. Juergens, Marcus Amsler, Karl Amsler, Jacob Wolters, Robert Kleberg, Louis von Roeder, William Frels, Siebel, F. W. Grassmeyer, Joseph Biegel, and some others. The families of Karl and Marcus Amsler, Ludwig von Roeder, and Robert and Louis Kleberg settled as far away as Cat Spring.

Other settlers of these two communities were George Damke (Dannker), John Heinike, George Herder, John Reinermann, R. D. Stoelje, Pettus, Benningof, Kleekaemper, William Schneider, Peter Pieper, and Dr. John D. G. Varrelmann. Another family which deserves mention here is that of Adolphus Fuchs which settled in 1846 near Cat Spring and remained there for several years before moving on to Cypress Mill in Blanco County. Adolphus Fuchs taught school near Cat Spring.

Ernst set his neighbors a good example by planting peach trees and by raising vegetables. His first trial with the cultivation of the Havana variety of tobacco was a success. J. G. Sieper became postmaster of Industry in 1838 and about this time, too, the first drugstore was opened. About the year 1840, Mrs. Ernst opened a hotel, "an oasis in the desert," where immigrants and travelers stopped on their way from Galveston and Houston into the interior of Texas. Out of 408 farm owners listed in the census of 1860 for the area comprising Industry, Cat Spring, and New Ulm, 350 had German names.³

Not long after Friedrich Ernst selected his league of land, Joseph Biegel selected a league of land on Cummins

3.—Bieseles, *op. cit.*, 43 - 47.

Creek in present-day Fayette County in 1832. Known for some time as Biegel's Settlement it presently received the name of Biegel Post Office. B. Scherer, J. O. Tschiedel, Andre, J. D. Mayer, and John C. Helble were among the early settlers. The census of 1860 did not carry Biegel as a separate town or community and listed the names of Beagle (Biegel) and Schirrer (Scherer) for La Grange and Meyer for Fayetteville.⁴

In 1834 the third German settlement of this lower area was founded. Its name was Cat Spring, and it received this name because one of the young von Roeders killed a wild-cat at one of the springs on the San Bernardo. Its founding has already been mentioned and its first settlers have been named. The second group of settlers, relatives of the first group, sailed from (Bremen?) on the last day of September, 1834, and landed at New Orleans after a voyage of two months. Many names of settlers of Cat Spring and vicinity could be listed here from such fundamental and reliable sources as the minutes of the Agricultural Society of Cat Spring, W. A. Trenckmann's *Austin County*, Mrs. Ottilie Goeth's *Was Grossmutter erzahlt*, and others.⁵

In Colorado County the first German settlement was Frelsburg, deriving its name from its founder, William Frels, who had settled at Cat Spring in 1835. Its founding date is probably 1837, since "Frels participated in the storming of the Alamo in the fall of 1835 and saw service at the battle of San Jacinto." Its growth was slow but steady, a characteristic of the German settlements in this lower area. Most of its settlers came from Oldenburg and Holstein in Germany. In 1852 a store, a post-office, a blacksmith shop, a few houses, and a Catholic church, in addition to scattered residences, existed in Frelsburg. In 1859, the Evangelical-Lutheran congregation under Rev. J. C. Roehm built a church at Frelsburg. The census for

4.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 47-48.

5.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 48-50.

1860 listed 103 landholders with German names for Frelsburg.⁶

In 1841, Rev. L. C. Ervendberg went from Houston to organize an Evangelical-Lutheran congregation at Blumenthal in Colorado County. No mapmaker has ever committed himself on the exact location of Blumenthal, but it was probably on Cummins Creek and not far from the settlements thus far mentioned. Many places in Colorado County even today can match the name Blumenthal, valley of flowers.⁷

Roedersmuehle, generally called Shelby after David Shelby, the first American settler of the region, got its name from the fact that Otto von Roeder built a mill there on the upper stretches of Mill Creek. August Vogelsang bought the mill in 1845. Most of the early settlers of Roedersmuehle (Shelby) really meant to go to the region of West Texas where the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas was carrying on its colonization work. Suerth organized the first school in the community and the first school house was built in 1854. F. Fisseler was especially interested in the school and started the movement to organize an agricultural club. As early as 1852 a singing society existed in Roedersmuehle.⁸

In Fayette County, W. H. Jack owned a league of land which Count Boos-Waldeck bought for the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas in 1843. He named it Nassau in honor of Adolf, the Duke of Nassau and Protector for the Society. Prince Leiningen, also connected with the Society, appointed Charles Fordtran as overseer and he in turn placed William Etzel in charge of Nassau. The Society did not promote a settlement at Nassau, but some of the settlers acquired land around Nassau Farm, so that a settlement developed there.⁹

Between Fayetteville and Ellinger, a German settle-

6.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 51.

7.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 52.

8.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 52-53.

9.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 53.

ment was started at Ross Prairie about the year of 1845. John H. Meyer from Hanover and Joseph F. M. Sarrazin from Westphalia settled there in 1842 and 1843, respectively, but it was not until 1845 or so that other people settled there and gave the region the definite appearance of a settlement. By 1851, it had so many settlers that Rev. P. F. Zizelmann, a minister of the Evangelical-Lutheran Synod in Texas, could describe it as a large settlement. Ten years later, two years after the St. John's Evangelical-Lutheran congregation built a church at Ross Prairie, the congregation had its own resident pastor, the Rev. R. Jaeggli.¹⁰

Northeast of Cat Spring the community of Millheim came into being about the year 1845 in the fertile valley of Mill Creek as an offshoot of Cat Spring. The name of *Muehlheim* was suggested for it by Wilhelm Schneider, but the American settlers called it Millheim and the name stuck. In W. A. Trenckmann's *Austin County* the names of a good many settlers are given as they were supplied to him by S. Engelking, the son of F. Engelking, the local storekeeper.

Some of these names appear in the minutes of the Agricultural Society of Austin County which was founded by Andreas Friedrich Trenckmann. Louis Constant wanted to make Mill Creek navigable, A. Hagemann made tomato cider, E. Kloss was a lawyer and the first secretary of the agricultural society, J. R. Wilm built the first cotton gin in Millheim, J. H. Krancher was the first constable of Millheim, and E. G. Maetze founded the old Millheim school.

Besides farmers, the community had blacksmiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, brickmasons, a cabinetmaker, a saddler, a tanner, and a tinner. It was but natural that a singing society existed at Millheim, but the sources do not reveal either the names of the members or the name of the director.¹¹

10.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 53-54.

11.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 54-55.

At San Bernard, about ten miles west of Cat Spring on the south bank of the San Bernardo in Colorado County, a German settlement definitely came into being in 1845 and 1846. Colonists of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas preferred to stay in this section of the State where a good number of Germans had established themselves and where the frontier conditions were not as exacting as in the Fisher and Miller grant. The census of 1860 lists 20 farmers in San Bernard in 1860, and descendants of these can no doubt be found in this community today.¹²

Out of the earlier Duff's Settlement in the western part of Austin County developed the German community of New Ulm. This was in the late 1840's when German immigrants interested in agriculture came to Texas. The first settlers of New Ulm came from Industry, Nassau Farm, and Shelby. Trenckmann's *Austin County* reveals that Lorenz Mueller suggested the name of New Ulm and won his point by treating those present to a case of Rheinwein. A Mr. Ebeling was the community's first postmaster.

At Christmas time in the year 1858, the Rev. Adolphus Fuchs, then a resident of Cypress Mill in Blanco County, visited New Ulm with his daughter Ottilie in the home of Ferdinand Wolters. Carl Goeth was in the saddlery business at New Ulm with his brother-in-law, Ferdinand Wolters. He met Ottilie Fuchs and out of that meeting later grew a wedding.¹³

Just east of the line between Fayette and Washington counties lies the La Bahia Prairie and there in the late forties the community of Latium was established. Its name reveals that some of its settlers were so-called "Latin Farmers," that is, highly educated men. Viktor Witte was one of the first settlers and because of the large rock house which he built the community was sometimes called the Rock House community. Bernhard Witte, another settler,

12.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 55.

13.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 55-56.

had studied medicine in Germany but did not actually practice in Texas, but two of his sons became physicians in Texas. Dr. Henry (?) Brandt interested himself in the production of commercial fertilizer.

Carl F. Giesecke and his brother George Christian Friedrich Giesecke, both immigrants of the Adelsverein (Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas), settled in Latium as did also Hermann R. von Bieberstein, a civil engineer by profession who served the community as a surveyor. Carl Wilhelm Apollo Groos lived in Latium until he moved to New Braunfels. His three sons established the well-known Groos National Bank in San Antonio. Hermann Otto Cornitius and Albert Eversberg were also among the "Latin farmers," and Professor Krug, whose descendants are to be found in Brenham today, was the school teacher of Latium.¹⁴

Washington County's second German settlement was Berlin, and its founding date was about the year 1849. The exodus of Germans from Germany after the failure of the revolutions of 1848 in various German states brought some German settlers to this settlement. Valentin Hoffmann, whose wife lived to be 102 years old, and his family were the first settlers of Berlin. An Evangelical-Lutheran congregation large enough to have a resident minister had come into being by 1861. The Rev. Jacob Graul was the minister.¹⁵

Yorktown has the distinction of having become the largest German settlement in the lower Brazos-Colorado-Guadalupe region. It came into existence as the result of a definite plan to establish a town. It is located in DeWitt County and was laid out on the original Alexander Pendaris headright, of which John York had become the owner and after whom it was named.

York entered into certain "Articles of Agreement" on April 1, 1848, with Charles Eckhardt, Theodore Miller

14.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 56-57.

15.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 57.

of Indian Point in Calhoun County, and C. DeSchutz and John L. Mueller of New Braunfels. Eckhardt and his associates paid \$1.00 in cash for a half interest in York's league of land and agreed to lay out the league into town or building lots, blocks, and acre lots. The expenses of surveying, mapping, recording, and advertising were shared by Eckhardt and his associates.

York was a good businessman because he was to keep each alternate lot, block, and acre lot. Eckhardt and his associates did not lose much time in making the town plot, and on July 24, 1848, they notified York that they were sending him a copy of the plot and had given Eckhardt full power of attorney to close the deal.

William T. Eichholz, for a number of years editor of the *Cuero Deutsche Rundschau* and well informed on the early history of the German settlements of DeWitt County, says that Eckhardt's sterling qualities attracted settlers to the community and made it grow rapidly. He claims that Andreas Stricker, Peter Metz, C. G. Hartmann, and a Mr. Hoppe were the first settlers. On the census rolls of 1860, 97 of the 120 persons there listed have German names.¹⁶

West of Victoria about nine miles, is located the settlement of Coletoville, also known as Steiner's Settlement after its founder, Carl Steiner, who settled there in 1849. The United States Post Office Department named the place Coletoville when it established a post office there. The settlement did not survive, and in 1884 both the store and the post office no longer existed.

Julius Schuetze, who founded the *Texas Vorwaerts* in Austin on October 26, 1883, and published his article, "Meine Erlebnisse in Texas," on February 1, 1884, says that he moved to the Coletoville neighborhood in 1852 and rented on the farm of Gustav von Frauenstein. His mother and sister lived with him. In 1853 he rented a small farm from Jacob Schiewitz and added to his income by hauling freight from Indianola to Victoria, Goliad, New

16.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 57-58.

Braunfels, and San Antonio. Early the following year Louis Schuetze, his brother, moved from Indianola to Coletoville.

George and Fritz Witting, Dr. Wolff, E. Froboese, A. Wundt, and Baron von Lochhausen were other settlers of Coletoville, and William Westhoff, a young man, was in the employ of von Hoyer and von Zobel, two former German army officers who owned a country store on the twelve-mile Coletto. Most of the settlers, of course, were farmers and were quite successful in planting Irish potatoes which grew well in the light soil of the region. Julius Schuetze, then hardly 19 years old, was the director of the Coletto *Gesangverein*, which was organized on April 7, 1854, with ten active members.¹⁷

Meyersville was another German settlement in the Coletto neighborhood and was founded about the year 1849. Adolph Meyer, its founder and after whom it was named, really came to Texas under contract with the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, but he preferred to remain in the lower part of the State. This settlement, south of Cuero, really grew up in two sections about two miles apart on both banks of the twelve-mile Coletto. Lower Meyersville became the real business center of the community and had an Evangelical-Lutheran minister as early as 1852. Rev. Christoph Sager was the minister. In 1859, the Evangelical-Lutheran Synod of Texas convened there. Seventy-two of the 80 land-owners in the census of 1860 were of German extraction.¹⁸

A German settlement in Fayette County, seven miles southwest of La Grange, carries the strange name of O'Quinn settlement because of its location on O'Quinn's Creek, named so after an early Irish settler by that name. However, it is positively stated in F. Lotto's *Fayette County* that it was named after an Indian chief by that name. Such German settlers as A. Duellberg, Fred. Mel-

17.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 58-59.

18.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 59.

cher, Charles Luck, H. Bruns, and John Voigt lived there in 1850, and in 1860 the census listed 30 German land-owners. But this list includes the Germans in the Black Jack community, where Johannes C. N. Romberg lived, a man of considerable poetic ability. He wrote a whole volume of verse, and two of his daughters, Louise and Lina, married William and Hermann Fuchs, respectively, brothers of Mrs. Ottilie Goeth.¹⁹

Because "everything — forest, field, meadows, and flowers — seemed to give them a friendly welcome," J. F. Schmidt, an Oldenburger schoolmaster, gave a German settlement in the northern part of Austin County the name of "Welcome" in 1852. Some American settlers, Carothers, Shelburne, Davis, and others, to name only a few, lived in the general neighborhood when the German settlers moved into the region. With Schmidt were three other Oldenburg schoolmasters, namely, A. Vogelsang, D. H. Schelling, and Carl Kruse.

Schmidt organized a singing society, and the need for public education was recognized by building a school on the right bank of Pecan Creek near the center of the community. In his *Austin County*, W. A. Trenckmann names the early German settlers as A. Wangemann, Harde, Peters, K. Stoelje, Barings, H. Huebner, Wittner, Lange, Otto Boeker, H. Meier, Eben, Mahlmann, Albert Spreen, Bockelmann, Haverlah, Giesel, and F. Hachfeld.²⁰

Two parts constituted the settlement of High Hill near the southern boundary of Fayette County. The upper part was called Oldenburg for the obvious reason that most of its residents came from Oldenburg in Germany. The lower part was named Blum Hill in 1855 in honor of Robert Blum, who had played quite a prominent part in the revolutionary movement of 1848. He was a writer of poems and articles in the *Berliner Schnellpost* and was greatly stirred by the revolutionary movement of the 1830's.

19.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 59-60.

20.—Biese, *op. cit.*, 60.

Blum was not a radical as we use the term, for he quieted a disturbance in Cologne on August 13, 1845, in the absence of Prince Johann of Saxony. In the revolutionary year of 1848, he organized the *Vaterlandsverein*, to which 40,000 members belonged at one time. As a member of the Diet of the German Confederation he tried to keep the Radical Left in control. He would probably have emigrated to the United States, but his assassination in Vienna on November 9, 1848, prevented that step.

F. Lotto's *Fayette County* and an article in the *San Antonio Freie Presse*, which was presumably written by August Siemering because of his great interest in the history of the Germans in Texas, list the names of 17 settlers. Among these were H. Ebeling, who built the first general merchandise store in 1858, and F. G. Seydler and J. H. Hillje, each of whom built a steam grist mill. Captain Charles Wellhausen, August Kuechler, and Ernst Goeth were other settlers of the community, which received its name when the post-office was established there in 1858.²¹

Rev. John G. Lieb was the minister of the Evangelical-Lutheran St. John's congregation, organized in 1858 in the community of Round Top in the eastern part of Fayette County on the banks of Cummins Creek. Two miles away was the Nassau Plantation of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas. It was not until the middle 50's that the German settlers began to outnumber the American settlers in the community. Surnames such as those of the settlers George Fricke, C. E. Bauer, Weyand, William von Rosenberg, Ferdinand Kneip, Henry Kniep, Alolph Kneip, C. W. Rummel, Charles Schiege, Robert Zapp, C. Henkel, and Weikel prevail in Round Top and other communities of Texas.

The synodal meeting of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church was held in Round Top in 1860. In that year the eighth United States census showed that 129 farms

21.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 60-61.

were owned in Round Top by settlers with German names.²²

A resumé of this chapter reveals a list of 20 German settlements in the lower Brazos, Colorado, and Guadalupe area in the period from 1831 to 1861. Only one of these settlements, Yorktown, came into being as the result of any concerted plan. Such settlements as Industry, Biegel, Frelsburg, Shelby (Roedersmuehle), Ross Prairie, Coletoville, and Meyersville, grew up around the farm of some settler. Biegel, Frelsburg, Shelby, Yorktown, and Meyersville were named after the first settler in the neighborhood, either German or American.

Shelby, Welcome, and Round Top are examples of settlements in which the German element, some time after founding of the settlements, began to outnumber the founding American element. The use of English names for seven of the settlements indicates an Americanizing influence as well as a feeling on the part of the settlers that German names were not appropriate for settlements in Texas. Latium, in Washington County, had a considerable number of highly educated men, so that among the Germans it was called the Lateiner Settlement. Shelby (Roedersmuehle), Millheim, and Cat Spring also had a good percentage of educated men, and it is no wonder that in these settlements, as well as in the 16 others, an effort was made to provide schools for educating their children.

On October 29, 1849, Adolphus Fuchs petitioned the legislature in the name of 30 German families of Cat Spring and neighborhood for aid in maintaining a school. Fuchs, who was the teacher at Cat Spring, stated that English schools were "undeniably the best way to Americanize the German population of Texas and to make good citizens of them." At Shelby (Roedersmuehle), a school was built in 1854.

E. G. Maetze began one of the best schools at Millheim a few years before the Civil War. Many of his pupils

22.—Bieseke, *op. cit.*, 63.

became prominent, among them Charles Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and Labor under President Taft, and W. A. Trenckmann, editor of the *Austin Wochenblatt* for a good many years.²³

Religion, as we have seen, was not neglected either. Between the years 1840 and 1844, Rev. L. C. Ervendberg, who was later to be the first Protestant minister in New Braunfels, founded Protestant congregations at Industry, Cat Sping, and Biegel. On November 1, 1841, a synodal meeting of German ministers at Industry drew up a constitution for the regulation of the several churches. Dr. Johann Anton Fischer signed this constitution as president and Rev. L. C. Ervendberg signed as secretary of the synod.²⁴ Following the organization of the Evangelical-Lutheran Synod in Texas in 1851, congregations of this denomination were started and churches were built in Meyersville (1852), Frelsburg (1857), Round Top (1858), Ross Prairie (1859), and Berlin (1861).

Most of the Germans in these settlements were from Oldenburg, Holstein, and Westphalia, in the northwestern part of Germany. Some settlers also came from other German duchies and principalities, and it is claimed that some Bohemians and Swiss became settlers in this lower area. Friedrich Ernst's letter mentioned above brought a number of Oldenburgers to Texas, and when these wrote home to relatives and friends, others emigrated to Texas where it seemed easier to make a living.

An additional incentive for emigration, especially in the case of the early settlers of Cat Spring, was the failure of the revolutionary movement in Germany from 1830 to 1833. After 1845 a number of the colonists of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas preferred to remain in the previously established settlements of this lower area and in some instances helped in the founding of other settlements, such as New Ulm, Yorktown, and

23.—Bieseles, *op. cit.*, 213-214.

24.—Bieseles, *op. cit.*, 217-218.

Meyersville. After 1848 the exodus of revolutionists from Germany added to the population in these settlements, but no settlements are traceable to these newcomers. A slow but steady growth was characteristic of all of them, and only one, Coletoville, did not survive.

The Roll Call

TO THE PIONEER

A dirge for the brave old Pioneer!
The Patriarch of his tribe!
He sleeps—no pompous pile marks where
No lines his deeds describe.

They raised no stone above him here
Nor carved his deathless name
An empire in his sepulchre
His epitaph, his fame.

THEODORE O'HARA

AMSLER

Carl Conrad Amsler settled in Cat Spring in Austin's Colony in 1834. Though very poor at time of his migration, he was able by patient industry to acquire a handsome competency. He joined in fighting for Texas independence and after returning to Cat Spring he established a tavern and a stage coach stand. He also engaged in farming and operated a grist mill and gin. His first three slaves were bought at auction in New Orleans. He made several trips to Switzerland bringing back able bodied families who worked for him to repay the cost of their passage.

Very few of the Amsler decendants became professional people preferring business activities.

Chas. Amsler married Julia Meyer. He established a cotton gin, a cotton seed oil mill, and lumber yard in Hempstead.

Sam Amsler married Merle Culpepper, moved to McGregor, Texas, and operated a lumber yard.

Walter and Clove Amsler, sons of Sam and Merle Culpepper Amsler, are in the furniture and lumber business and have a funeral home in McGregor.

Miss Lena Amsler, daughter of Sam and Merle Culpepper Amsler, teaches history in the McGregor high school.

F. J. Amsler, son of John C. and Francis Julian Amsler, has been with E. M. Scarbrough and Sons of Austin, Texas, for 32 years and is credit manager of this store.

Miss Jean Amsler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Amsler of Hempstead, is an air line hostess.

Lamar Amsler of Hempstead, is employed as a mail carrier.

AMSLER

Marcus Amsler came from Switzerland and settled in old Millheim about 1837. Five children were born to them:

Caroline, Louise, Ed., Marcus, and Sam who was killed in an accident as a youth while hunting with his close friend, Siegismond Engelking. His descendants followed a profession or conducted a business.

Marcus Amsler operated a saw mill in Montgomery County and later moved to Brenham to enter the implement business.

Ed Amsler conducted a warehouse business in Brenham, joined by his brother, Marcus.

Fred L. Amsler, son of Marcus and Hulda Ramm Amsler, attended college and worked for McFadden Cotton Company for 17 years. He then bought cotton, had an insurance business and did credit reporting. He managed a building and loan business and was recently appointed by Governor Shivers on the State Finance Commission.

AMTHOR

August Amthor came from Germany in a sail boat and settled near Cat Spring prior to 1856. He engaged in farming and after some years purchased a large farm near Sealy and built a large house which became a land mark for that area. Two sons survive their parents: Richard Amthor who was born in Cat Spring and now lives as a retired farmer in McGregor. The other son, Otto Amthor, lives in Bastrop. Gus Amthor of McGregor is a son of Richard Amthor.

AMTHOR

Henry Amthor came from Germany to Texas in 1837 and settled near Cat Spring where he engaged in farming and stock raising.

There were eight children born to Henry Amthor and his wife but none lived to be grown.

BAADE

John Baade emigrated from Germany in the early days

to the Cat Spring locality and engaged in farming and cattle raising, and later operated a cotton gin.

They reared their four children on the farm and endured both the hardships and the joys of pioneer life.

BAUCH

Adolf Bauch, the son of a minister in Sterndorf, Germany, accompanied the Romberg family to Texas in 1847. Later, his mother and two sisters crossed the ocean to join him, but one of the sisters, Elise Bauch, died from cholera aboard the ship and was buried at sea. Adolf Bauch married Louise Romberg.

BERGMANN

Rev. Josef. Ernst Bergmann was born in Zapadoy, Czechoslovakia, Europe, on August 13, 1797. On October 3, 1849 he sailed for Texas to cast his lot with the pioneers in the Cat Spring region. He had completed his college work for the Lutheran ministry in Germany and in Czechoslovakia. He was ordained in the Reformed Evangelical Church, Strausseney, Czechoslovakia, and installed on November 1, 1830.

In Cat Spring he served a church that used a building in front of the old cemetery. This original church building was blown down during the 1900 storm and the lumber was sold to a neighbor. All church services were spoken in the German language. The church was independent. Records show that Rev. Bergmann married 108 couples while living in Austin County.

Rev. Bergmann was rated as a brilliant student while in college and a very prominent and progressive minister in Strausseney, where he organized an Aid Society of Ministers. He married Marie Berndt who was a college graduate and taught school at the time of their marriage in 1852. They had four children. One son died in Europe, a daughter died on their voyage. The older daughter mar-

ried a farmer and the younger daughter married a baker. She inherited her parent's farm at Cat Spring.

The farm was sold later and she moved to Brenham.

Rev. Bergmann was very active in the Cat Spring Agricultural Society and his opinion seems to have been highly respected.

BESCHONER

Max Beschoner came from Germany at the age of 16 and later married Bertha Goebel. This couple bought a little place near Cat Spring and when his parents and sisters followed him from Germany, after a few years, the family bought a tract of land of 300 acres at Millheim.

The Beschoners left Germany during a financial crisis in that country. Max Beschoner worked his passage to America and after landing here he contacted the Nentwig family and worked at anything he could get for \$10.00 per month. Max and Bertha Beschoner reared three children.

BLASCHKE

Adolf Blaschke established his home in the Cleveland community near Cat Spring soon after landing in America in 1856. Here was a man as staunch as any man; he never wavered and his character was one of the finest; his motives were always for the good of humanity and of the most unselfish kind. Those who knew this grand patriarch of Cleveland were indeed fortunate.

Seven children were born to this couple.

Edwin Blaschke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Blaschke of Sealy, received his Degree of Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas and holds a good position in Houston.

Another grandson of Adolf Blaschke is Eugene Bueckmann who has served overseas for his country.

BLASCHKE

Adolf Blaschke came to America from Bochnish-Triban, Bohemia, with his parents in 1856. Adolf Blaschke and his wife settled in the Cleveland community prior to 1870 and engaged in farming and stock raising. Six children were born to this family: Emil, Emma, Otto, Mary, August, and Adele.

BOLTEN

Karl Bolten left Germany in 1842 to come to Texas to live in the land of paradise as it had been pictured to him. He settled in Millheim where he and his wife and their three sons and four daughters lived on a farm.

BOSSHAMMER

August Bosshammer came from Germany to Texas in 1878 as a gunsmith by trade. He taught school in Clarks-ville near Cat Spring. He left for Mexico in 1888, returned in 1896, and taught the Old Meyer school north of Cat Spring. After this school house was abandoned and a new one built in Cat Spring, he taught in the new school until 1903.

August Bosshammer and Ernestine Meyer Bosshammer had the following children: Theodore, Sophie, Emma, Carl, and Hugo. The three oldest children died with diptheria during an epidemic. Both Hugo and Carl followed railroading as employees of the Southern Pacific Lines.

BOSTICK

J. H. Bostick, a native of Alabama, came to Texas in 1827 and received a grant of land as a colonist in the Stephen F. Austin Colony. He settled near the old town of Cat Spring and was very helpful in developing this country. He built mills along Mill Creek and served as post-master during the early period. He came as a single man and

later left but returned with a wife from Tennessee in 1838 to make his home and to rear his children.

BRAESICKE

Albert Braesicke, Sr. emigrated from Reinsdorf Willenberg, Germany, in 1857. He settled in old Cat Spring where he followed the trade of a blacksmith. He later moved to the new site of this town, again establishing a blacksmith shop. His wife, Wilhelmine Meier Braesicke, came with her parents from Mecklenburg Strelitz, Germany.

To this union five sons and four daughters were born; the three sons who lived to be grown were Albert J., Otto and Herman; the four daughters, Mrs. Herman Wittenburg, Mrs. Julius Wittenburg, Mrs. Paul Rudolff and Mrs. Sam Hillboldt.

BREIDEL

Breidel came from Germany before 1860, settled near Cat Spring and followed the occupation of farming. Four children were in this family, two sons and two daughters.

BRETSCHNEIDER

Carl Bretschneider came from Altenburg, Germany, at the age of 17 to escape compulsory military training. He settled at Cat Spring to be with his brother, Egmont. He married after a few years and reared two daughters and four sons. Carl Bretschneider farmed and taught music. He organized a community "Sang Verein."

BRETSCHNEIDER

Egmont Bretschneider left Altenburg, Germany, to avoid conscription. He came to Cat Spring in 1867 where he followed his profession as teacher. The Egmont Bretschneider's had five children.

BRETSCHNEIDER

Herman Bretschneider, son of Carl Bretschneider, an early settler of Cat Spring, attended a rural school and took private lessons from his uncle, Egmont Bretschneider, at night, and later from his cousin, William Bretschneider. He taught school in Frelsburg where he married Estella Fehrenkamp.

In March 1908, his boyhood dreams to learn more of Indians came true when he was appointed in the Government agency at Fort Deliance in Arizona. He was later transferred to Anadarka, Oklahoma.

He studied law by correspondence and attended summer sessions at the University of Texas Law School until he received his license to practice law. He had an active part in settling the Red River boundary dispute between Texas and Oklahoma and again moved to Duncan, Oklahoma, where he was employed in the legal offices of the Atlantic Oil Company.

BRETSCHNEIDER

William Bretschneider, son of Egmont Bretschneider, was born in Cat Spring in 1876. He attended his father's school in Cat Spring and entered A. & M. College where he graduated in 1898 as civil engineer. William Bretschneider was one of the 13 members of the first A. & M. Band organized in 1897. After graduating he secured employment in Houston as a civil engineer with the Southern Pacific Railroad and at the time of his death in 1931, he was division civil engineer.

BROSIG

Theodore Brosig's parents emigrated from Neisse Ober Schlesien, Germany, and came to Texas. Theodore Brosig was born in a three-room house not far from where he lived in Millheim in 1855. His parents had come to the land of

opportunity, as America was frequently referred to in 1850. Theodore Brosig did more ranching than farming. He lived on a horse practically all his life; he and his bride, Dora Kenever, even rode to Cat Spring from Millheim horse-back to be married by Jacob Schaffner in March 17, 1933.

BRUNE

Georg. Brune and his wife, Henrietta Zabiensky, came from Westphalia, Germany, to the Bernardo community in approximately 1840. He operated a cotton gin and also farmed, and was also successful in cattle raising. There were three sons in this family, George, Ed and Adolph and five daughters, Louise, Lena, Adelpheide, Elise, and Tuseda.

BUCHTIEN

Christian Christopher Herman Buchtien came to Texas with his wife and their four children from Buetzaw, Germany, in 1851 and settled near Cat Spring. He lived but a short time after coming to Texas. His widow reared their children on the farm.

BUCHTIEN

Ernst August Herman Buchtien emigrated with his parents from Buetzaw, Germany, and established his home near the Cat Spring community where he followed the occupation of farming and cattle raising. There were nine children: Elise, August, Anna, Joh, Ernst, Emma, Henry, Herman. and Dollie, the sole survivor at present.

BUNTZEL

Frederick Buntzel and his wife, Minnie Buntzel, came from Prussia in 1854 and settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim region where they farmed and reared five children.

CLARKE

Edwin N. Clarke came to the Cat Spring-Millheim area as an early settler. He married Mary Ann Allen and they engaged in farming and stock raising, living on the open range of the old Allen League. In 1870, their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, married Elemelech Swearingen, and who died at the age of 58 within a few miles of her birth. Edwin N. Clarke was a charter member of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society which was organized in June, 1856.

CONSTANT

Louis Constant was one of the early settlers of the Cat Spring-Millheim area and was a charter member of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society in 1856. Louis Constant was a visionary and one of his visions was that of making Constant Creek (named for him) a navigable stream connecting with the Gulf of Mexico and thus creating Millheim as a port. He left the United States and returned to Germany.

CORNELIUS

Richard Albert Cornelius and family left Prussia in 1850 over dissatisfaction with the government in that country. They came to Texas and after living in Industry for a while, they cast their lot with the early settlers of the Cat Spring area about 1860. Here he entered upon farming and also pursued a freighting business. The Cornelius family had seven children. One of these children was Julius Cornelius whose descendants still maintain their residence in Cat Spring today.

DABELGOTT

Ernest F. Dabelgott and family came to Texas from Germany about 1864. They came for better opportunities in the new country and settled in Cat Spring where relatives of the family had settled before this time. There were

six children in the family and farming was their occupation.

DIPPEL

A. J. Dippel and his wife, Amalia Dippel, taught school in Cat Spring for two years, 1918-1919. Mr. Dippel was in charge of the school as superintendent and Mrs. Dippel taught the primary grades. They had three children, two daughters and a son, Albert Louis, who entered the medical profession. Dr. A. Louis Dippel is one of the outstanding physicians in Houston.

DITTERT

Christian Leopold Dittert came from Wetzler, Germany, in 1848 with his wife and six children, and another child was born to them after they settled in Cat Spring. After his wife's death he married again and to this union 15 children were born. Christian L. Dittert was the father of 22 children; only two of the children by his first wife reached maturity. The children by his second wife were Anton, Katarina, Minna, Heinrich, Carl, Wilhelm, Emma, Otilie, Elise, Leopold, Christian, Otto, Alvin, Alvina, and Dories.

Christian L. and Mary Dittert lived on the same farm throughout their wedded life. After his death in the early '80's, his widow and children lived there until 1916 when she moved to the site of new Cat Spring which was part of the Dittert land.

DITTERT

Among the descendants of Christian Leopold Dittert we find Charles Dittert who was a constable for several terms. Other sons became successful farmers, blacksmiths, livery-stable operators in the horse and buggy days, merchants and tanners.

Among the grandchildren are: J. L. Dittert, son of

Charles and Anna Reibenstein Dittert, born in Cat Spring, B.A. and law degree from University of Texas. He held positions as county attorney of Austin County, assistant district attorney of 22nd Judicial District of Texas, county judge of Austin County, and district attorney for 22nd Judicial District. He is serving at present as county attorney for Austin County.

Andrew Dittert, son of William, Sr., and wife, Ida Thomsen Dittert, was born in Cat Spring. He is serving as county auditor of Wharton County.

Lawrence Dittert, born in Cat Spring, served as deputy tax assessor, deputy county clerk, county auditor and is now county clerk in Austin County.

Two daughters of Anton Dittert, Sr., Mrs. Minna Kizer and Mrs. Helen Howard, were school teachers.

Two daughters of Dora Dittert Severin and Otto A. Severin, Amalia and Estella, are school teachers.

DITTMANN

Dr. Dittmann and his wife, a sister of Mrs. Wilhelm Gaedecke, came to Texas from Germany with the Gaedeckes in 1849 and settled in the Bernardo area, now Alleyton, Texas. Here Dr. Dittmann practiced medicine for about 10 years. He lived the hard life of a country doctor who was called out all hours of the day and night and rode horse back with his saddle bag of pills over impassable roads to give relief to the sick. Dr. Dittmann died in about 1860. The couple had no children.

DITTMAR

Henry F. Dittmar and his wife, Marie Litzmann Dittmar, came from Pretzwald, Germany, to the Cat Spring-Bernardo area in 1851. They came to find freedom and decided on this locality because of relatives living there. Mrs. Nagel was Mrs. Dittmar's sister. Henry Dittmar did some farming but he was a surveyor by profession. Nine chil-

den were born to this couple the oldest one being born in Dr. Nagel's home before they had moved into their own home. Their children were, Max H., Paul E., Albert, Carl, and Henry Dittmar, Johanna, Elise, Sophie and Minna.

DROSS

Mr. Dross came to Texas from Germany and settled in Cat Spring prior to 1858. The records of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society show that he was elected as treasurer of this Society in 1858. He was married to Mrs. Valeska Kleberg Langhammer and one son, Phillip, was born to this union.

ECKELBERG

Christian Eckelberg, a native of Germany, came to Texas in 1863. He landed in Galveston from where he traveled by steam boat up the Brazos to Hempstead, then by ox team to Cat Spring where his friends greeted him with open arms. His occupation was that of a blacksmith but he also engaged in farming. Christian Eckelberg and wife had five children.

ECKHARDT

Henry Eckhardt emigrated from Koenigreich Sachsen, Germany, in 1853. He was a cabinet-maker by trade but followed ranching in the vicinity of Cat Spring. Later, he and his brother, Paul Eckhardt, became teamsters and hauled cotton and merchandise between New Orleans and Austin County. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Eckhardt had four children: Henry, Paul, Selma, and Hedwig.

ENGELKING

Ferdinand Friederich Engelking received his education in Germany. He graduated from the University of Heidelberg with law as his major. He left Germany and came to Texas as a single man and was one of the first settlers in

old Millheim. He married Caroline von Roeder, the youngest child of the founder of Cat Spring, Lt. Ludwig von Roeder. It was the Engelking family who belonged to the circle of early settlers of Millheim who were a nucleus of culture in the wilderness. The first school in Millheim, conducted by E. G. Maetze, was founded through Engelking efforts; literary clubs, music clubs, and theatres were organized in his home. Young people from far and near joined. The Engelking home was a land mark of pioneer life, a large house surrounded by a beautiful flower garden. Back of the house was the "Puter Patch," a grove of beautiful trees where their large flocks of turkeys roosted at night. The old Engelking cemetery, near the old home, has been provided with perpetual care through contributions by the descendants of the pioneers.

Direct descendants of Ferdinand and Carolina Engelking who followed a profession or operated a business:

Sigismund Engelking, first pupil of E. G. Maetze in Millheim. He chose teaching as his profession, taught for years in Millheim, and after his retirement as teacher he taught his children and nephews until they could pass a teacher examination or enter college.

Albrecht Engelking, ginner with large farm interests near Wallis.

Mrs. Marie Engelking Bosse, teacher in Millheim school for a number of years.

Mrs. Valesco Engelking Regembrecht, taught in rural schools of Austin County for many years.

William Engelking, operated a soda water factory in Hallettsville, and later moved to Orange Grove where he had a lumber and hardware business.

Ferdinand Engelking, totally blind since his early youth, was educated in the State Blind Institute at Austin. He taught piano, organized and directed string bands, entered into the broom manufacturing business on a small scale in his home. In later life he tuned pianos. He died at

the age of 83 years in 1943. Three years prior to his death he went to Taylor and to Houston where he had contracts to tune pianos.

Peter Engelking studied under his father and held a county teacher's certificate. He taught in rural schools of Austin County.

Ferdinand C. (F. C.) Engelking held diploma of San Houston Normal, Huntsville, and taught in public schools in Texas until his retirement.

Sigismund Engelking (nicknamed Sol) taught in Newburg near Cat Spring at age of 15 years, taught in Brenham, attended Baylor University, graduated Yale and Texas University of Law, appointed as U.S. district attorney for El Paso district; practiced law in San Antonio until his retirement. He now lives on a ranch near Comfort.

Johanna Rosa Engelking studied under her father's tutorship to take the state teacher's examination; began her career of teaching at Watson Lake near Brenham; attended summer normals; B.A. and M.A. degrees from Baylor University; taught 50 years in the public schools of Texas, the last 27 in Houston.

Fritz W. Engelking operated a broom factory and later a metal and scrap yard in Newport, Kentucky.

Mrs. Martha Engelking Lieb studied at home and held a county teacher's certificate. She attended Baylor University and taught school in Fayette County until her marriage to Herbert M. Lieb.

Herman Engelking attended Baylor University and graduated from Sul Ross Teachers College, Alpine. He made teaching his life's profession.

Conrad Phillip Engelking attended Baylor University and Texas Law School, served in World War I, practiced law in Electra for 33 years.

ENGELKING

Grandchildren and great grandchildren of Sigismund and Anna Zimmerman Engelking:

Lessing Lanham Engelking, editorial editor for New York Herald Tribune; Sigismund Peter (Pete) Engelking, connected with the American Statesman in Austin; and Dr. Charles Ferdinand Engelking, son of Ferdinand and Anna Scherpig.

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Descendants of Sigismund II and Annia Lauria James Engelking:

John James Engelking, graduate of Yale, served in France, Morocco, and Indo-China.

Marianna Engelking Jessen, graduate of University of Texas and John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland. Now with the health department of New York City.

Helen Cayloma Engelking Mather, graduate of University of Texas, now living in Stamford, Connecticut.

Sigismund Engelking III (Bob), graduate of University of Texas in architecture; follows this profession in Mexico.

Descendants of Charley and Ernestine Engelking Mantzel: Anita Mantzel Klopsteck, Carl J. Mantzel.

Descendants of Julius and Isabella Brosig Engelking: Julius C. (Tommy) Engelking and Fritz J. Engelking.

Descendants of Herbert and Martha Engelking Lieb: Martha Lieb Cooke, James S. Lieb, Martha J. Cooke, daughter of Edwin and Martha Lieb Cooke, and Lawrence S. Engelking, son of Herman and Gretchen Waak Engelking.

Descendants of Will H. and Anita Mantzel Klopsteck: William Klopsteck, graduate from Sealy High School; attended Blinn College, graduate of Texas A. & M. College in Agriculture with agronomy his major study; stationed with Uncle Sam in Chicago at present; and Eleanor Klopsteck Mickulin.

Descendants of Fritz and Anna Trenckmann Engelking: Paula Luhn, daughter of Conrad and Clara Engelking Luhn.

Daughters of Hugo and Bertha Timme Engelking: Mrs. Flora Engelking Mersmann, Mrs. Lily (Billie) Engelking Preibisch, Clare Engelking, Rudolph A. Engelking, Sr.

Sons of Rudolph and Adele Schaffner Engelking: R. A. Engelking, Jr. (Rudie) and Leslie Engelking (deceased).

Mrs. Waldine Vandergrift Sloane, daughter of Frieda Engelking and Louis Vandergrift, graduated from Sealy High School, B.S. degree of San Marcos Teachers College, teaches in public school in Katy, Texas.

Edwin Kersten, son of Charley and Anna Engelking Kersten.

Partial list of grandchildren of Ferdinand and Carolina Engelking: Gustav Engelking, son of Carl and Louise Langhammer Engelking; Willie Engelking, son of Albrecht and Elise Gaedecke Engelking; Willie, Edward, Ernest and Herbert Bosse, sons of Gustav and Marie Engelking Bosse.

Sons of William and Tonie Regenbrech Engelking: Arthur Engelking, Edwin Engelking, and Roland Engelking.

ERWIN

Jim Erwin and his family lived on the Sap farm after Sap's death. Erwin moved to Bellville when this became the county seat in 1846. General D. Y. Portis sold the entire rail fence on the Sap place to F. Engelking who bought the 5,000 12-foot post oak rails.

EWALD

August and Elizabeth Ewald left Posen, Germany, in 1858 to come to Texas. They settled near Cat Spring and enjoyed the open country, engaged in farming and cattle raising. He was the first undertaker in that area. Five children were born to them.

EWALT

William G. Ewalt was born in Cat Spring and lived with his parents on the farm until the new Cat Spring was developed when the Katy Railroad was built. He operated a furniture store in New Cat Spring and later a general store until he retired in 1915 and moved to Houston.

John H. Ewalt, son of William G. Ewalt, has been employed by the Houston Chronicle for over 32 years.

FLATO

Frederick W. Flato married Sophie Welhausen from the Cat Spring-Bernardo region and lived in that vicinity in 1848. Later, the couple left for New Ulm and then to Flatonia, which was named for the Flato family. There were 13 children in this family. F. W. Flato was born in Hamburg; Being of French descent, the name originally was Flateau.

Flato studied navigation in his youth and was captain of a boat for 12 years. He sailed all over the world and learned to speak seven languages. This was in the days when Negroes were captured in Africa and hauled to Holland as slaves. It made such an impression that it seemed impossible for him to join the cause of the Confederacy in later years when he made Texas his home. After the Civil War he had a freighting line between Brownsville and Nacogdoches, a caravan of mule wagons. He later established himself as a merchant. The Flato family today is one of the most prominent in South Texas along the coast.

FROEBEL

August Froebel and Concordia Heim met in Indianola, Texas, and later married. Concordia Heim came to Texas from Grumbach at Annaberg in Sachsen, Germany. They settled in Cat Spring shortly after 1850, and made farming their occupation. Five of their ten children did not reach maturity but the five that did, reached a ripe old age.

August lived to be 93, William was nearing the 90 mark when he recently passed away, Lieschen reached the age of 79. Alvina, age 84, and Adelheide, age 86, are still living.

FUCHS

Pastor Adolf Fuchs came to the Cat Spring-Bernardo region as one of the early settlers from Germany. He was educated primarily at home; attended the University of Jena, Halle and Goetingen. He was an ardent student of philosophy, was by nature talented in music and song. His free and philosophic interpretation of Scripture brought him in conflict with orthodox religion and he was severely criticized by other ministers who definitely leaned to the orthodox interpretation of the Bible. Pastor Fuchs decided to emigrate and came to New Braunfels with his frail wife and seven small children, but soon felt that his wife would not be able to endure the hardships prevailing at New Braunfels. He and his family settled in the Bernardo settlement and he began to work on his glowing ideals of freedom. He lacked the practical side of life and had to resort for a livelihood to teaching music in the Young Ladies Institute at Independence, Texas, at a salary of \$100.00 per year. He left and moved to Marble Falls, where he tuned pianos.

GAEDECKE

Wilhelm Gaedecke, one of the earlier immigrants and a pioneer of Cat Spring vicinity, purchased 200 acres of land upon his arrival with his wife from Germany. Undaunted by the hardships confronting them they began cutting down trees for their dwelling, a house built of hand-sawed and hand-split logs and shingles. It consisted of one bedroom, a shed-like room for a kitchen and the same style of architecture for a porch. The notched logs interlocked and the cracks between the logs were closed

with red clay to keep out the cold air. The dirt floor was made from red clay and sprinkled with light colored sand and when necessary this sand was swept off with a weed broom and replaced with a layer of clean sand. The attic was later converted into a room for the children and an outside ladder provided the approach and entrance. William Gaedecke was a nurseryman by occupation and owned a nursery before emigrating. In his new location in Texas, he had to devote most of his time to farming and hog and cattle raising to provide for his family. He continued to love flowers and always had them surrounding his home.

GLAUM

John Glaum and wife considered the country of Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, too poor. Conditions were such that no bright future was in sight. They came to Texas and settled near Cat Spring in 1856, where they farmed and raised cattle for a livelihood. To this couple were born three children, Elizabeth, John and George.

GLOR

Glor settled in Cat Spring before 1850. He bought the farm that Louis von Roeder had improved near the spring from which Cat Spring gained its name. At first this spring was known as "Die Ketzen Quelle," the German name for Cat Spring. It was here where Louis von Roeder had killed the wildcat as it came to the spring at twilight.

GOEBEL

August Goebel was born in Leibstadt, Germany, January 1823, and came to America in 1852. He was a dyer by trade, but settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim community and followed the occupation of farming. He married Helene Roggermann and to them were born eight children.

GOEBEL

Morris Roland Goebel is the grandson of Johannes Fucjs, Lutheran minister, who pulled up stakes from his native Germany in 1835 for Texas "to preach as God, not the Kaiser, tells me."

GOEBEL

Otto August Goebel came from Alt Dollstadt Pr. Holland Koenigsberge, Germany, at the age of 20 in 1851. He received his citizenship papers on November 4, 1869.

He and his wife with their five children farmed in the Cat Spring-Millheim community. Three of their children are living today: Mrs. Louise Goebel Rienicke, age 88; Otto Goebel, age 80; and Mrs. Mary Goebel Stallbaum, age 78, of Columbus, Texas.

GOEBEL

Rudolph Goebel came from Dollstadt, Germany, thinking there would be better opportunities in America for him. He settled five miles east of Cat Spring towards the Millheim settlement in 1849. He and his wife, nee Minna Schneider, reared their five children, Olga, Bertha, George, Clara, and Julius.

During the Civil War, Rudolph Goebel hauled freight from Mexico to Houston. Most members of the Goebel family were inclined toward drama and music, and played some kind of instrument in brass bands. Rudolph Goebel was a charter member of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society and a charter member of the Millheim Singing Society.

GOLLER

Herbert Goller and his wife, Magdaline Goller, left Germany for a free and better country. They came to New Orleans in 1866 and then a little later moved to the Millheim community.

He was a brewer in Germany and had a small brewery and bowling alley after he settled in Texas.

There was one son, William Goller, born to this couple.

GOLLER

This chapter would not be complete without mentioning William and Josephine Brosig Goller. This couple lived close to the old Harmonie Hall which for years was the center of the social activities of Millheim. It was in this large hall where the Singing Society met; it was here where the Agricultural Society occasionally would meet; it was here where political rallies and elections were held. A routine of festivities were held every summer, and in the winter these were followed by the Christmas tree dance, the New Year's Ball, the annual masquerade ball, the Leap Year dance.

For all these occasions, Mr. and Mrs. Goller provided the refreshments and put the ground and hall in order.

GROSS

Louis and Anna Gross came from Dassler, Sachsen, Germany, by way of Bremen to Hamburg and thence to the United States.

They settled in Cat Spring in 1859 in the early spring. They had two small sons, Ernst and Franz Olte. The parents both died the same year and Fritz Amsler took the two boys as their foster father and reared them. Louis Gross was a carpenter by trade but like all other pioneers, he engaged in farming.

GUITTARD

Frank Guittard, son of Dr. Frank G. and Manie Welhausen Guittard and the great grandson of Carl Conrad Welhausen who was one of the earliest settlers of the Cat

Spring-Bernardo area, is a prominent attorney in Victoria, Texas.

HACKBARTH

John Hackbarth was born in Texas and went to work at the age of 19 in Charles Koch's store in Industry, Texas. The next year he came to Cat Spring and worked in the Fritz Peter's store for years. He later established his own store in Sealy, Texas.

The most picturesque thing about Hackbarth's store was the caravan of peddler wagons. These large wagons had their fronts rigged up for carrying supplies in daily use on farms. Perched upon the back of the wagons were chicken coops. It took four mules to pull these wagons over the bad roads. Early in the morning the clerks would load their caravan of wagons with coffee, sugar, flour, calico, sox and many other small household articles. These peddlers would pull up to the farm homes and sell them their supplies. Then the chase began in the back yard of catching chickens, ducks, and geese. From the smoke house came lard and eggs that the farmer had to sell. These would be brought out and sold to the Hackbarth store. At evening the caravans would return to home base with noisy fowl to be unloaded and put in coops, back of the store.

HAGEMANN

Albert Hagemann, a native of Halle Sachsen, Germany, came as an immigrant to Texas to redeem his financial failure as a merchant in Germany. He settled in the Millheim area in 1846, this area being part of Cat Spring at that time. He engaged in farming and was one of the "Latmers" so called because these men had only book knowledge of farming.

HARTMANN

Michael Hartmann came to Cat Spring in 1847 from

Berg-Rheinfeld, Unterfrankon. He was a teacher and served as school trustee in Cat Spring for 15 years. He also served as justice of the peace in the Cat Spring area.

HASSLER

Henry Hassler came from Germany to enjoy the free country. In the early days he had a butcher shop at old Cat Spring and later joined his brother-in-law, Mr. Kinkler, in the management of a general store. He also farmed and raised some cattle. There were nine children in the Hassler family.

HEIN

Fritz Hein left Germany about 1865 because of oppression and came to Texas as a single man and settled in the Bernardo area. He married Selma Eckhardt and they bought a farm from her brother, Paul Eckhardt. It was on this farm that they reared their four sons and one daughter.

HEINICKE

Friederich Heinicke came to Texas from the Province of Brandenburg, Germany. He settled in Cat Spring-Millheim area prior to 1870 according to the records. After his wife's death, left with two children to rear, he married Marie Langhammer, daughter of Valeska Kleberg Langhammer and Gustav Langhammer. To this union four children were born: Valeska, Caroline, Fred, and Gus Heinicke. Friederich Heinicke was a musician and played for the dances in Millheim and surrounding territory.

HEINICKE

There are four direct descendants of Marie Langhammer and Friederich Heinicke. Fred and Carolyn Heinicke, brother and sister, engaged in the drug business in Brenham; Dr. Gus Heinicke, a dentist in Brenham; and Valeska Heinicke, who married Dr. L. A. Adams, a dentist of La

Grange. To their union two daughters were born: Mrs. B. D. (Carolyn Marie Adams) Lee and Mrs. Max (Valeska Adams) Hoffmann.

HESS

Henry Hess and Franziska Schlapota Hess came from Vienna to Texas and settled in Cat Spring region in 1860, shortly before the Civil War. Henry Hess was in the saddle and harness business and operated a saddle shop.

Three sons were born to this union: Henry, Anton, and Edmund.

HILLBOLDT

Gottlieb Hillboldt married in Texas. To the union were born two daughters, Matilda and Anna. The latter's son is a Catholic priest. Hans and Claus, brothers of Gottlieb Hillboldt, remained bachelors.

HILLBOLDT

Samuel Hillboldt (Farber) emigrated from Dorf (village) Schinznack, Switzerland, to seek prosperity and freedom in America.

The word "Farber" was always written in parenthesis after his name to designate that he had been a dyer in Switzerland and also to distinguish him from another Samuel Hillboldt, who emigrated on the same boat with him. Samuel Hillboldt (Farber) settled near Cat Spring in 1848 and became a farmer and rancher. Their eight children were Sam, Jacob, Fritz, Charles, Henry, Louis, Louise, Sophia, and Ida.

HILLBOLDT

Samuel Hillboldt and wife Susanna Amsler Hillboldt, with four brothers, Gottlieb, Jacob, Hans, and Claus, and their mother, Barbara Hillboldt, came to America in 1848 on the same boat with Samuel Hillboldt (Farber). They

too, were from the village Schinznack, Switzerland. They came for freedom and prosperity and to be with Susanna's brother, Clark Conrad Amsler, of Cat Spring. Like other immigrants they farmed and raised cattle. They had three children, Jacob, Clara and Louis.

HIMLEY

Alexander and Clothilda Himley were among the earlier settlers of the Cat Spring and Bernardo community in 1848. Alexander Himley studied agriculture in his college days in Germany and kept his interest alive in the new world. He introduced various new seeds, plants, and trees, and planted a fruit quince tree in his yard that lived for over 50 years. He introduced an improved grade of sheep from Kentucky. He built the first stock tank in this settlement, which still exists after about 100 years. Ten children were born to them. Alex Himley, a son, became a pharmacist with a drug store in La Grange.

HINTZ

Joachim Hintz was born on November 8, 1841 in a log cabin among the hills of old Millheim where he grew to manhood. Millheim in those days was an outpost of civilization in the Republic of Texas. Here he grew to manhood and when the Civil War broke out, he joined the Confederate Army, was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg, captured and spent two years in prison camp. His brother was killed in action.

Upon his release at the close of the war, he returned home and married Minna Schneider in 1871 who also was a native-born Texan of Millheim. To this union eight children were born. Joachim Hintz was a carpenter but also cultivated his farm.

HIRSCH

Joseph Hirsch and Anna Hirsch, nee Havlicek, emi-

grated from Muenchen' Gratz at the Oser in Bohemia. They settled in Cat Spring in 1852 and followed farming as their occupation. Six children, all now deceased were born in Cat Spring; Charles, Josephy, Alex, Theresa Hirsch, (Mrs. Antome Dittmar), and Anna Jaeschke.

HOLLIEN

Johann (Hans) Hollien and Hulda Ramm were married in Rostock, Mecklenburg, Germany, on March 21, 1844. After careful consideration they embarked with her brother, Fritz Ramm and wife, for the land of the brave and the free. On their voyage to Galveston their son, Henry, was born on December 6, 1845. After landing, they came by ox-wagon to Cat Spring where they joined other German settlers who had blazed the trail and established a congenial settlement. The Holliens were the happy parents of an even dozen children and well it was that they had chosen farming as their occupation.

HORAK

Josef Horak and his wife Josefina Hlavisma Horak, with four children Marie, Josef, Jr., Ludwig, and Anton, settled in Cat Spring in 1856. They were natives of Austria-Hungary but left their country on account of oppression and suffering. Although Josef Horak was a tailor by trade, he was forced to follow farming for there was very little demand for tailored clothes among the settlers of Cat Spring. All his tailoring was done by hand-stitching until he purchased a sewing machine for his wife from the proceeds of the first bale of cotton they sold in 1876. Their fifth child, Amalia, born in Cat Spring, was the first Czech girl born in Texas. Another child, Frances, was born to them here in Texas.

This list shows the decendants of Frances Horak Galla:

Mrs. Fred (Lillie Kahanek) Hightower, teacher.

Mrs. A. B. (Olga Kahanek) Grogory, teacher in City Schools of Houston.

Eugene Kahanek, business in Dallas.

Valentine L. Gallia, retired businessman.

V. L. Gallia, Jr., son of Valentine Gallia, in business in Houston.

Major Joy Robert Gallia, son of Valentine Gallia, retired as major in Air Corps.

Mrs. Frank (Lillie Gallia) Schoppe, teacher.

Mrs. Ewel (Ida Lee Schoppe) Miller, teacher in Beaumont.

Mrs. Paul (Grace Schoppe) Bauer, teacher in Beeville.

Mrs. Gus (Frankie Vivian Schoppe) Bentrup, teacher.

Edwin Gallia, son of Frances and Valentine Gallia, operates a farm.

Mrs. Adolph (Hilda Gallia) Heimar, teaches at Moravia.

Alec Gallia (son of Edwin Gallia), in business in Dallas.

Edwin Gallia, Jr. (son of Edwin Gallia), typist for Tribune.

Mrs. C. R. (Ida V. Gallia) Hrcir, teaching at Brown school.

Sons of Mrs. C. R. (Ida V. Gallia) Hrcir: Major Charles Leonard Hrcir, sales manager, Lawton Oklahoma; Wilton Andrew Hrcir, associated with his father R. C. Hrcir in business and dairying; Lt. Oran Thomas Hrcir, Fort Hood.

HUBER

Isaac Huber came from Switzerland to America in 1858. He settled in San Felipe, then moved to Fayetteville. In 1868, he moved to Cat Spring and made oxchains and plows, being a blacksmith by trade. Eight children were born to the couple.

JOHN

Hartman John came from Germany in about 1837 to settle in Cat Spring. He married Thekla Amthor in 1858 and five girls were born to this union, one dying as a child. The others were Johanna, Louise, Thekla, and Ida. Hartman John was a farmer and hauled produce to and from Galveston by ox wagon. He became a naturalized citizen in 1858. He ran a commissary at his home. He also hauled cotton to Brownsville in 1863 with many delays through lack of feed and water for oxen, and difficulty marketing the cotton when the government turned it down at Brownsville.

JOHSE

Carl Johse left Germany because of the unsettled political atmosphere in German provinces during the 1840's. He settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim-Bernardo area because he found this to be a friendly area and one in which settlers could transplant some of their culture.

Carl Johse was a painter and decorator by profession and possessed above average artistic ability. He was highly skilled artisan, evidence of which can still be seen in some of his work in the old homes of the Cat Spring vicinity. He served in the Civil War and his wife, Eliza Sens Johse, lived near him in Galveston while he was stationed on Galveston Island during his Confederate service. After the war, they bought a farm a few miles south of Cat Spring where they lived with their 17 children. Only seven daughters and one son lived to adulthood. Mrs. Elize Sens Johse was a typical pioneer woman. Her husband died early but she never faltered and reared her small children alone on their farm.

JOUSAN

Martin and Frances Jousan emigrated from Austria-Hungary in 1869 and came to Texas for better oppor-

tunities. They followed the occupation of farming for a year when Martin Jousan died and his wife, Frances Jousan, reared their two sons and a daughter on their farm amidst the hardships of pioneer life.

KARGER

Julius Karger left Germany when he tired of wars and oppression. He came to Texas by way of Galveston in 1869 at the age of 16 years. His parents followed him to Texas a few years later. His first work was in old Cat Spring in the Kinkler and Hassler store. Later, he worked for John Hackbarth until the store burned down and then he opened up a small store of his own. Karger served as postmaster in Cat Spring for over 20 years.

Twelve children were born into the Karger family, Robert W., Charles O., Alolph, Hugo, Otto, Joe G., Lawrence D., Sophie, Annia, Emma, Olga, and Rosie.

KARGER

The sons of Julius Karger have mostly engaged in merchandising: Robert W. Karger, owner and operator of a large toy store in Houston; Charles O. Karger, manager of piece goods department of Columbis Dry Goods Company; Adolph Karger, harness manufacturing in Gainsville; Hugo Karger, television and radio business in La Grange, Illinois; Lawrence D. Karger, assistant in his brother's toy store in Houston.

KEDING

Jacob Keding and wife, Magereta, came to Cat Spring in 1853 from Mecklenburg, Germany. After the ocean voyage of eleven weeks, they landed in Galveston and decided to settle in Cat Spring.

Jacob Keding was a shepherd in Germany and the salary did not provide a living for his family and there seemed no prospect of ever owning a home. Here in Texas he con-

tinued to be a shepherd but the flock was his own and his opportunities widened. He was a man of vision and was willing to undergo the hardships of a pioneer in order to become an independent landowner. He engaged in farming and during the time that he could spare, he split rails for which he received \$11.00 per thousand. This sum was invested in a turning plow the price of which was \$11.00. During the Civil War he hauled cotton by ox wagon to Mexico.

Later Jacob Keding and his wife bought 645 acres of farm land from Carl Palm three miles west of Cat Spring and here they reared their five children, Joachim and John who were born in Germany, and August, Henry, and Emma who were born in Cat Spring. Their only daughter suddenly passed away from a heart attack one week before her wedding day.

Jacob and Magereta Keding lived to a ripe old age on this farm, 86 and 98 years, respectively.

The Kedings acquired three additional farms in the Cleveland community which were deeded to their sons Joachim, John, and Henry.

KEDING

Descendants of Jacob Keding:

Joachim Keding—two sons, Otto and Alvin and two daughters, Mrs. Julius Brune and Mrs. Albert Schulze, both of Sealy.

John Keding—two sons and one daughter, Hugo, Richard, and Mrs. Erwin (Emmie) Brune.

August Keding of Cat Spring, engaged in farming.

Henry Keding, ranching, Amarillo.

Lee Keding, son of Hugo Keding.

Bessie Mae Keding, Houston.

Dee Brune, son of Julius Brune and wife, Sealy.

KEUFFEL

Wilhelm Keuffel emigrated from Hamburg, Germany, in 1852. After a voyage of eight weeks they landed in Galveston on May 31. On June 4, five days later, he left Houston by ox team for Cat Spring. Here, he learned to make cigars. Later he purchased land in Kritzenthals Place, later named New Bremen, where he improved and cultivated his land. During the winter he made cigars and went to Cat Spring every Sunday on horse back and sold them. He married the widow Bau, daughter of Wilhelm Schneider, Sr., and moved to Millheim in December 1853. He sold his 125-acre farm in Kritzenthals Place for \$600.00. A log cabin was built in Millheim and five children were born to this couple: Carl, Otto, Ida, Martha, and William L. E.

KEUFFEL

William L. E. Keuffel was born and reared on a farm in Millheim. At an early age he took over responsibilities of the farm, his mother being left a widow. He had no inclination for farm work but liked mechanics. He was educated under E. G. Maetze at Millheim and finished school in 1875. It was then that his mother sold out and moved to Galveston. William Keuffel worked in a hardware store. During his first vacation he was asked by his employer to take orders for the store while visiting in Millheim. He became known as "the drummer from Galveston." Later working in Chicago, his cousin, Charley Schneider from Millheim, visited him and together they took a trip to New York City. It was here by accident that he met his uncle bearing the name of Keuffel. William's letters from his mother in Galveston had been sent by mistake to his Uncle Keuffel by the post office and his uncle suspecting this had left a letter at the general delivery window for William. He went to work for his uncle who was opening an artist's tinware factory. W. L. E. Keuffel opened up his

own shop and became a prominent New Jersey manufacturer of precision instruments that are well known internationally. This ends the story of one of the bare-foot boys of the Cat Spring-Millheim region who reached success via the Keuffel-Esser firm of Hoboken.

KINKLER

Fritz Kinkler left Prussia and came to Cat Spring in 1843. Like most of the early settlers he farmed and raised some cattle. He also operated a cattle train between Texas and Kansas City and during the Civil War, he hauled cotton to Matamoras, Mexico. Later he had a hardware and lumber business in old Cat Spring, also an undertaking establishment. When new Cat Spring was developed, he went into the general merchandise business.

KLEBERG

Ernest and Louise von Roeder Kleberg were among the early settlers of what later became known as Millheim. They lived on the hill overlooking Clear Creek. They engaged in farming and reared their daughter, Valerco, who married Gustav Langhammer.

KLEBERG

The name of Kleberg is so well established in the State of Texas that there is little to be added.

Robert Justus Kleberg and his bride, Rosa von Roeder, came from Westphalia, Germany, to Cat Spring in 1834 to live under a republican form of government and enjoy the fruits of democracy. Robert Justus Kleberg received his degree of doctor juris before leaving Europe. Upon settling in Texas, he lived the life of a pioneer; fought in the Battle of San Jacinto where Texas received its independence, and was rewarded for his services by the new president of the Republic with an appointment as associate commissioner of the Board of Land Commissioners. Presi-

dent Lamar appointed him as Justice of Peace, Chief Justice of Austin County and DeWitt County after he moved to this county. He and Albrecht von Roeder built the first school house in DeWitt County. He died at the age of 86 in Yorktown, Texas.

Four sons were born to Robert Justus and Rosa Kleberg, the two older at Cat Spring. Otto married Mary Ploeger. Rudolph married Mathilda Eckhardt, was educated in law, started the first newspaper in Cuero; served as United States senator and as United States district attorney.

Robert, lawyer by profession, married Alice King, daughter of Captain King who owned the famous King Ranch. He took over the management of King Ranch at the death of Captain King.

Marcellus, married Emily Miller of Bellville. He also was a lawyer by profession, receiving his degree from the Washington and Lee University and was admitted to the bar in 1873. He was elected member of House of Representatives in the Texas Legislature in 1874 and was made a judge in Recorder's Court in Galveston in 1876.

Sons of Rudolph and Mathilda Eckhardt Kleberg:

Caesar, manager on King Ranch; August Joseph, dentist in Austin; Alfred L., business manager of the King Ranch.

Sons of Marcellus and Emily Miller Kleberg: Robert, printer of Galveston News; Walter, physician in Galveston; Marcellus, Jr., lawyer.

Sons of Robert J. and Alice Kleberg: Richard Mifflin Kleberg, lawyer by profession, admitted to the bar in 1911, manager ranching interests of King Ranch, served as United States congressman from 1931 to 1945, resumed managing King Ranch; Robert Kleberg, Jr., attended Cornell University as student of agriculture, manager of King Ranch.

Sons of Otto and Mary Ploeger: Rudolph taught Ger-

man in Southwestern University, served as Judge of De-Witt County; Edward Kleberg, prominent lawyer in Corpus Christi.

KLOSS

Alex Kloss, with his bride, Emma Stolterfoht, left Rostock Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1864, determined to seek happiness in a free country. After arriving in the Cat Spring-Millheim area, they were attracted by the natural beauty of the Millheim territory where they settled and became farmers. Three daughters and two sons were born to this union. Those of us who knew Uncle Alex and Tanta Emma, as they were known to their friends' children, will always cherish their memory.

KLOSS

Emil Kloss and wife left Mecklenburg, Germany, because of oppressive and unsettled conditions in that country due to the Revolution.

They came to Texas and made their home in Cat Spring-Millheim territory in 1850. Emil Kloss, like his brothers, Robert and Alex, was a highly educated man and very talented in the finer arts of music and painting. They had no children of their own but adopted a little girl, Anna. Life with all its hardships in Texas did not prove altogether satisfactory and they returned to Europe. Their daughter, Anna, who was 13 years old at this time, refused to leave Texas and lived with Alex Kloss and family until the age of 16 when she went to Marble Falls to teach school. In Marble Falls she met and married Otto Willrich and they moved to La Grange where their descendants live.

KLOSS

Robert Kloss and wife came from Hamburg, Germany to Texas where they settled near the brother, Emil Kloss, in the Millheim area. Robert Kloss was a jeweler and gold-

smith by trade, but farmed by proxy in this country. He loved to read and preferred doing this to following the plow.

KLOSS

In the second generation of the early emigrants of the Kloss family, we find: several teachers among the descendants: Friedrich Kloss descendant of Alex and Emma Stollerfoth Kloss; Ernst Kloss, Ellen Kloss, and Mrs. Minnie Kloss Walker, sister of Ellen Kloss and daughter of Ulrich and Ida Reichardt Kloss.

KLUEVER

Asthmus (Assmus) Kluever was born in Germany on March 13, 1823, and came to Texas prior to 1856. The minutes of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society designate him as a charter member. He came to America to enjoy freedom of all interferences by the government and to have better advantages. He acquired a tract of land in the Cat Spring-Millheim area and pursued farming and live stock raising in addition to being a teamster.

There were five children who lived to maturity: William H., James Asthumus, Dora, Elise, and Gretchen.

KLUEVER

William H. Kluever, son of Asthmus Kluever, was born in Millheim on December 14, 1858. He married Sophie Wilms. He became an employee of the Santa Fe Railroad, coming up from laborer to division superintendent. He was president of the Sealy Bank at the time of his death in 1930.

KOLLHOFF

Johann Kollhoff and wife came from Germany about the time of the Civil War, 1862-65 and settled in old Cat Spring. Later, they sent for the Kollhoff parents and

other relatives among whom were the Meier and Braesicke families. They came by way of Galveston and from Houston in an ox wagon. Johann Kollhoff engaged in farming and also hauled freight, going as far as Mexico. Their five children were all born in Texas, but only three lived to be grown; Charley, Mary, and Friedericke.

Koy

Franz Koy was born in Prussia in 1816 and his wife Matilda Ratuschny was born in Ober Schlesin, Germany. Like others, they felt the urge to come to America, a land of opportunities. They settled in the Bernardo region in 1853 and engaged in farming and cattle raising. Franz Koy was a cabinet maker before coming to Texas.

Koy

August Koy, son of Franz Koy, was born in Cat Spring in 1855. He married Mrs. Adelheid Reichardt nee Brune. To this union were born five children, Clara, Ed, Hugo, Dick, and George; in addition were Mrs. Reichardt's two children by her former marriage, Edwin and Adelheid Reichardt.

Ed Koy became a very successful rancher and farmer. Dick (August Jr.) Koy made a success as a livestock dealer; George Koy served as sheriff of Austin County; Jeff Koy, son of Theodore Koy, is well known for his prize winning Black Angus cattle; Justus John Koy, son of Dick and Emma Koy, graduated from Rice Institute as Civil engineer and is located in San Antonio; Ernest Koy, graduate of Texas University, was an outstanding football player and later became a professional baseball player.

Koy

Theodore Koy came from Germany in 1853 with his parents, Franz and wife, who settled near Cat Spring. He married Clara Wilms in January, 1874, and 12 children

were born to this union. Theodore Koy was a farmer and also operated a cotton gin.

KRANCHER

John Krancher emigrated from Sachsen, Germany in 1860 shortly before the Civil War. He was a Squire, (Justice of the Peace) and lived on a farm between Cat Spring and Millheim where he and his wife reared their seven children, John, Charley, Pauline, Emilia, Mrs. August Garling, Mrs. Chas. Garling, and Mrs. Henry Meier.

KRETZSCHMAR

Gustav Emil Ketzschmar was born in the Bernard area in 1857, he had one sister and seven brothers. Their parents had chosen this area when they came from the old country because wild game and fish were plentiful. They had timber that was so necessary to build log houses and zig-zag fences made of rails. One of the members of the family reports that turkeys were shot out of the trees that were so fat they popped wide open as they fell to the ground. Geese, ducks, squirrels, rabbits, and prairie chicken were also plentiful. Gustav Emil Kretzschmar was a farmer and a teamster hauling freight between Houston and Bernardo. It was he who hauled the shingles for the pavilion built in Cat Spring.

KROENER

Traugott Kroener and wife with three children came from Oberseite, Sachsen, Germany, in 1860 and landed in Galveston. From there they traveled by ox-wagon to Cat Spring where they lived the rest of their lives. Traugott Kroener was a cabinet maker by trade, but as there was little demand for this in Cat Spring in those days, he followed the occupation of farming.

KVETON

Albert Kveton took passage from Bremen, Germany,

to sail for America in 1841. His native land was Austria and he was born in Oestreich. He settled in old Cat Spring and, like nearly all the pioneers of those days, engaged in farming. He and his wife with their four sons, Adolf, Albert, Josef, and Clemens, and the daughter, Mary, constituted the family.

LAAS

Johann Laas left the Kingdom of Saxony in Germany after hearing of the better opportunities in America through reports from Germans who had settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim area. He settled in this locality on a farm in 1844 where his five children were reared.

LANGE

Wilhelm Lange left Hamburg, Germany, and settled in Cat Spring. He erected and ran a saw mill in 1850.

LADIG

Karl Ladig, born in Kassow, Mechlenburg, Germany, and his wife, Christine Ladig, nee Schroeder, came to Texas in 1869, accompanied by Mrs. Ladig's mother. They settled in Cat Spring where they practiced farming. The union was blessed by the following children: Fritz, who was born in Germany and was a public weigher in Cat Spring, Frances, Augusta, Mary, William, Charles, Lena, and Otto.

LANGHAMMER

Franz Langhammer came from Austria before 1840 and settled in Cat Spring where some of his friends had located. Seven children were born to him and his wife: Bertha, Tonie, Marie, Josephine, Henry, and Charles.

The three sons of Franz Langhammer were Henry, Charles, and Gustav.

Henry Langhammer had one of the first large dry

good stores in Cat Spring and was very successful in this undertaking. He married Minna Kloss and to this union two children were born, Ulrich and Minnie.

Charles Langhammer settled in Bellville after his marriage to Marie Luetke. Their two children were Ellen Langhammer Schauerhammer and Charles Langhammer, Jr. Charles Langhammer held several public offices, sheriff, tax collector, and served one term in the Texas Legislature as representative. He served as cashier and later as president of the First National Bank in Bellville.

Gustav Langhammer married Valeska Kleberg and their children were Ernst, Marie, and Caroline.

Ernst Langhammer taught in the public schools of Texas and later served as tax assessor for Washington County for many years. He married Lula Engelking and four children were born to them, Rosa, Kleberg, Dellie, and E. G. Langhammer, Jr.

LANGHAMMER

Gustav Langhammer was one of the early settlers in the Cat Spring-Millheim territory in 1852. His wife was Valesca Kleberg, daughter of Ernst and Louise Kleberg. Their three children were Ernst G., Marie, and Lina.

LESHIKAR

Charles Leshikar, son of J. L. Leshikar, came with his parents from Czechoslovakia in 1851 and settled in Cat Spring. He, too, was lured to this area by the natural resources, timber especially that made it easy to build log houses and rail fences. He became a successful farmer and rancher and he and his wife reared their children on the farm.

LESHIKAR

J. L. Leshikar left Austria-Hungary (now Czechoslovakia) in 1851 to join other immigrants in Austin

County. They desired to live in a country that permitted freedom of the press and where people could pursue their lives to their own satisfaction, unhampered by governmental interference. They settled near Cat Spring in 1853, and there reared their four sons on a farm. The chief occupation of J. L. Leshikar was a writer for a publishing company in Chicago, Illinois. He was a tailor by trade.

LIERMANN

August Liermann and his wife, Caroline Liermann, left Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1860 and came to Texas and settled in the Cat Spring region. They were dissatisfied with the restrictions that the Government in Germany placed on the people and felt that Texas had more inducements to offer them. They reared their four children, August, Friedericke, Mary, and Minna on the farm.

LITZMANN

Ludwig Litzmann, a German by birth, settled in Cat Spring between the years of 1845-1850. The desire to live in a free country brought him to America. He engaged in farming and his seven children were all reared on the farm as liberty-loving citizens.

LUEDECKE

Fritz Luedecke came from Germany and settled in Cat Spring in 1855. The records of Bellville show that he was one of the early constables of Cat Spring. According to election records he was elected as constable of Cat Spring in 1862, 1866 and again in 1878; however, the records are incomplete and no records of elections from 1850 to 1862 and from 1866 to 1876 are available. He had no children. Fritz Luedecke was a charter member of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society.

LUEDECKE

August Luedecke came to Cat Spring from Germany

with his wife, nee Doras Bartel, in 1859. Letters from his brother, Fritz Luedecke, describing Texas and the Cat Spring locality as somewhat of a wonderland, influenced him to leave Germany and try his fortune in this highly rated country.

The Luedecke family can trace five generations who lived in Cat Spring.

August Luedecke reared a family of four children. One of these, Johann, reared three children in Cat Spring, a son of Johann, Henry Luedecke, reared nine children. Three of these and their children are still living in Cat Spring: Hilton Luedecke, Mrs. Walter (Leona) Bretschneider and Mrs. William (Hilma) Schaffner.

LYNCH

Lynch came to the Cat Spring-Millheim area and bought the Albert Hagemann place, improved it and engaged in farming.

MAETZE

Ernest Gustav Maetze was educated in the Gymnasium of Glogau, Prussia, and the University of Breslan. He became a member of the German Parliament and joined the Democratic wing of this body in an attempt to secure concessions for the people. He prided himself that he debated with Bismarck. The Democratic wing lost and all these members were prosecuted. E. G. Maetze, leaving his family, fled to Texas where he worked on a farm near Cat Spring. One day while F. Engelking hunted horses in that vicinity he encountered Mr. Maetze and engaged him in conversation. He suggested that he come to the Engelking home in Millheim and open up a school.

This, Mr. Maetze did, and had an enrollment as high as 28 students. Pupils from far and near enrolled with him and some of these became prominent men: Carl Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and Labor in President Taft's

administration; Wm. D. Cleveland of Houston and Hugo Becker, both wholesale merchants; W. W. Trenckmann, editor of the *Wochenblatt* and W. E. L. Keuffel of the firm of Keuffel and Esser in New Jersey.

Mr. Maetze was highly respected; a good speaker and had a great influence over people. His voice was euphonic, his gestures dignified; and his speeches logical. He joined the Democratic party, was elected as county commissioner, later as county school superintendent and then as State senator for his senatorial district.

His descendants are: Gus Maetze, of Bellville, operated a gin; Mrs. Ida Maetze Schulze of Hempstead.

Grandchildren: Mrs. Chas. F. (Gretel Maetze) Adkins of Austin; Miss Paula Maetze, San Antonio; Mrs. J. H. Ida Maetze) Weston, taught in the Texas public schools and in New York; Miss Wanda Schulze, graduate nurse.

Great grandchildren: Dr. Chas. F. Adkins, Beaumont, Texas; Paul G. Weston, connected with Dunn and Bradstreet.

MALECEK

Adebert Malecek from Mahous, Austria, learned the blacksmith trade and followed this trade in Europe. He and his wife, Josephine Winters Malecek, came to Texas and worked as a blacksmith two years with his brother-in-law, Jacob Peshek, in Alleyton. He bought a small farm from William Brune and built and opened his own shop. He employed three men as helpers making such articles as ox wagons, yokes, bows, plows with wooden mold-boards, spurs, knives, grubbing hoes and all kinds of tools and implements. In April, 1873, he joined the Cat Spring Agricultural Society and won a \$10.00 prize for inventing the double shovel. He also made a poisoning machine to poison insects on cotton and made a cotton and corn planter.

MALECEK

Josel Malecek was one of the early settlers in Cat Spring. He was a blacksmith before coming to America, but made farming his occupation after he and his wife settled in Cat Spring. There were four children in the Malecek family, two boys and two girls.

MEIER

Fritz Meier was born in 1857 in Platone, Germany, and came to Texas in 1870. He united in marriage with Caroline Detloff in 1883. He settled in Cat Spring the year he immigrated and followed farming as his occupation. This couple had three children, Charles, August, and Emil.

MEIER

Samuel Meier came from Switzerland to Cat Spring as one of the early settlers before the Civil War. His wife, Marie Keding, came from Rostock, Germany, with her family. They engaged in farming. No children were born to this couple.

MEISTER

Carl Meister left Germany in 1845 and came to America. He was unhappy over the unsettled and oppressive government in Germany in that time. He chose Texas for his new home and in Texas it was Cat Spring, the place that was so dear to the old settlers and to many of their descendants.

Carl Meister married Minna Findeisen and to this union three sons and one daughter were born: Carl, August, Herman, and Ernestine.

MEISTERLIN

Friederick Meisterlin left Germany because of unfavorable government status at that time. He came to the Millheim area in 1853 and settled on a farm. He was a charter

member of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society and belonged to the group of the so-called "Latimer farmers" meaning that they farmed by the book. He was a very highly educated man, a graduate of the University of Breslau.

MERSMANN

William H. Mersmann from Muester Westphalia, Germany, a cabinet-maker by trade, left his Vaterland to join a group of German settlers in Cat Spring in the year 1842. He liked an out-door life and hunting in the new country, he found an abundance of wild game. His family consisted of his wife and seven children who led a care-free life on the small farm they cultivated. Giving advice to people was one of his hobbies and people from far and near sought it freely.

MICHAELIS

A widow, Mrs. Michaelis, whose given name is not known, felt that she could not endure the unsettled conditions in Prussia in 1850. She brought her five children, Karl, Ludwig, Henrietta, August, and Minna, to Texas and settled in Cat Spring. Her son, Wilhelm, did not come to Cat Spring until 1873 when he brought his wife and two sons of a former marriage. These two sons were Richard and Werner.

MICHAELIS

Wilhelm Michaelis came to Cat Spring in 1864 from Berlin, Germany. His mother had settled here in 1850 and he wanted to join her and other members of his family. Five children were born to him and his wife.

MUELLER

William Mueller and family lived on the Lynch farm for a short while, but had to move when this place was sold. The Lynch farm was in Millheim.

NAGEL

Dr. Herman Nagel was educated in medicine in the University of Berlin, Germany. In 1847, he and his wife embarked for America with New Orleans as their first point of destination and from there to the Cat Spring-Bernardo settlement. His intentions were to abandon his profession and devote his life to a small farm but the demand for a physician in this locality was so great that he returned to the practice of medicine. In 1855, he moved to Millheim where he bought another farm, but did not quit his profession in which he was very proficient. When the Civil War broke out he sided with the Union's cause. In spite of the dire need of a physician and all the consideration that was shown him, he left in November, 1863, feeling that it was no longer safe to remain. He left his wife and two small children with relatives and friends. He took his older son, Carl, and escaped to Monterrey, Mexico, then went to Matamoras and embarked for New York, and from there to St. Louis, Missouri. His two little children died and were buried in Millheim on their parents' little farm on Constant Creek. His wife followed him by the same route that he and Carl had taken to St. Louis. Dr. Nagel never held any grievances against the South and was loyal and devoted to his friends in Texas.

Carl Nagel, son of Dr. Herman Nagel, was born in 1849 on his father's farm in Bernardo. After his parents moved to Millheim, he began his education under E. G. Maetze. At the age of 14 (1863) his father, siding with the Union's cause, took Carl to Mexico and finally settled in St. Louis, Missouri. Nagel rose in political power and was appointed as Secretary of Commerce and Labor during President Taft's administration.

NECKER

Carl Necker, Sr., was born in Perlenberg, Germany, in April, 1825 and came to live in the Cat Spring-Millheim

area about the year 1850. He was a shoemaker by trade but followed farming after coming to Texas.

NECKER

Charles Necker, Jr., was born in the Millheim settlement in 1852 where he lived most of his life and reared his family. Mrs. Alma Hibbler of Sealy is one of his surviving children.

OLDAG

Joashim and Mary Oldag (originally Oldak) left Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1867 to come to Texas. They settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim region as they had heard it would be easy to make a living by picking cotton. Upon arrival in this area they began gathering moss from the trees, thinking it was cotton but soon decided that they were in error. Their two children, Charles and Mary were born in Germany.

PACHER

Jacob and Victoria Pacher with their three daughters came from Austria to Texas. They settled in New Bremen near Cat Spring in 1855. A son, George, was born to them at New Bremen. In 1883, they moved to Millheim where George Pacher lived on the old place until his death.

PLESS

Fritz Pless came from Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1869 and settled near Cat Spring in the Cleveland Community. Mr. and Mrs. Pless made farming their occupation and reared four sons and several daughters.

PLESS

John Pless emigrated from Brockhusen, Germany, in the 1860's and married Minna Palm. They settled in Cat

Spring and engaged in farming. A son and daughter were born to this union.

POTHAST

Frank Pothast emigrated with the four von Roeders who came from Westphalia, Germany, in 1832 and founded Cat Spring. Frank Pothast came to assist this group to locate and before he himself could get established, died from malaria.

PRAUSE

Arnold Prause and Charlotte Koehler Prause left Wallenburg Schlesien, Germany, in 1854 with their four children, Arnold II, Gustav, Reinhardt, and Clara, to come to Texas. They came by way of Galveston and Houston, the customary route of the early immigrants.

Arnold Prause was not only a highly educated man, but he was endowed by nature with a talent for music. He received his education in music in the best conservatories, finished in the "Violine Schule" in Paris, France in 1845; taught school and music in Germany; wrote his own notes and continued to do this after settling in Texas. He wrote his own text books until he retired and left his home on the Bernard to live with his daughter. He was outstanding in his knowledge and his ability to impart music to others.

PRAUSE

Arnold Prause II came as a child with his father and mother to America from Wallenburg Schlesien, Germany. He settled in the Bernardo community in 1860. He married Louise Brune and to this couple six children were born: Rudolph, Arnold, Ben, Gustav, and one daughter, Mrs. Lula Prause Uhlig. The family engaged in farming. Arnold Prause II served four years in the Civil War.

He had a cotton gin which was operated with oxen for power and later with mules until steam power came into use. Arnold Prause is best remembered for his musical talent; he instructed music, had a brass band and a choir (Gesany verein) at Frelsburg and Columbus. He wrote all of his music and rode horseback to these places to direct his members. Later he organized a Framily band at home which he directed until 1898. His son, Ben Prause, then took over and in addition directed the Cat Spring band, better known as the Dittert Brass and String Band. In about 1905, Ben Prause organized his own band with three of his sons, one of whom was George Prause, some other boys in his community, and included Grandpa Arnold Prause. He conducted this band until 1942 when he passed away.

RAMM

Fritz Ramm and wife, hearing of favorable conditions in a settlement in Texas called Cat Spring, left Rostock, Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1845 to settle in this community. Four children were born to them on their farm. Fritz Ramm also hauled cotton to Mexico. On his last trip he was shot by some Mexicans as he tried to cross the Rio Grande and died a little later from these wounds. The two sons and the ox wagon with the cotton were captured and the sons were held until after the close of the war when they returned to Cat Spring.

RAU

Victor Rau came from Germany on the same sailing vessel with the Wilhelm Schneider family in 1846 and settled in the same vicinity. Later, he married Julis Schneider, the daughter of Wilhelm Schneider, Sr. Less than a year after their marriage, he was thrown from a horse and died from the injuries received in this accident. This young couple was childless.

REIBENSTEIN

Dr. Adolph Ludwig Wilhelm Reibenstein, a physician by profession, left Germany in 1859 and came to Texas to better the opportunities for his family. He settled near Industry and practiced medicine all over that territory including the Cat Spring-Bernardo settlement. He was a musician by profession and transcribed music from poems. Several children were born to his first marriage. Children by his second marriage to Miss Brill were Johanna Louise Dorethea, Carolina Emma Marie, Julius Wilhelm, Anna Sophie, and Adolph Ernst Reibenstein.

REIBENSTEIN

Carl Reibenstein settled in the Cat Spring area between 1850-1856. Besides farming, he operated a grist mill, grinding corn for settlers.

REICHARDT

Carl Reichardt and his wife belonged to the pioneer group of settlers of the Bernard area settling here in 1850. They brought up a family of six children; their sons, Otto and William, followed farming and cattle raising and were successful in this venture. Otto Reichardt became a very successful stockman of that territory. The three daughters were Mrs. Ulrich (Ida) Kloss, Mrs. Julius Schneider of Ballinger, and Mrs. William (Augusta) Schneider who is living with her daughter, Mrs. R. R. Lorenz (Tillie) in Bellville. Her two other daughters are Mrs. August (Frieda) Buchtien of Leveland, and Mrs. Henry (Emma) Buchtien of Bellville.

REGENBRECHT

Adelbert Regenbrecht was educated in Germany before he came to Texas in 1855 and settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim area. In 1855 he married Anna Hagemann, daughter of Albert Hagemann. Adelbert Regen-

brecht tried farming after coming to Millheim. He was one of the so-called "Latineers," the term applied to those members of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society who had studied Latin and were farming from book knowledge. He soon decided to let his family take over the farming project and he turned to writing fire insurance. He was agent for the Phoenix Insurance Company. His hobby was playing chess on Sunday afternoon with his neighbor, Sigismund Engelking.

Descendants of Adelbert and Anna Hagemann: Minna Regenbrecht, Austin County; Reinhold Regenbrecht, Austin County; Mrs. Clara Regenbrecht Hollien, Austin County; Lora Regenbrecht, Austin County; Gertrude Regenbrecht White, daughter of Willie and Lina Engelking Regenbrecht, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Edward M. Regenbrecht, A. & M. College; Douglas E., son of Edward and Erna Preigisch Regenbrecht, Purdue University in Indiana; Albert Regenbrecht, son of Willie and Lina Regenbrecht, New Jersey.

REGENBRECHT

Reinhold Regenbrecht, son of Adelbert and Anna Hagemann Regenbrecht, was born in Millheim on July 29, 1866. He married Valeska Engelking.

Reinhold Regenbrecht attended country schools for six years then worked on his neighbors' farm until one day while he was picking cotton, Sigismund Engelking came to him in the field and told him that Center Hill school was looking for a teacher. It was only a small school of seven months' term but paid \$35.00 per month. Reinhold Regenbrecht decided that teaching school would appeal to him more than picking cotton. He dropped his cotton sack where he was working and the next day applied for the school. A few weeks later he passed the county teachers' examination and began his career as teacher. Although never attending a college, he educated himself by reading

and hard study in his spare time. He attended summer normal, taught 42 years jointly with his faithful wife and reared two sons, Ferdinand and Edward.

They taught at Coshatte and Hacienda in Austin County. Their son, Ferdinand Regenbrecht, born in April 1893, was senior student of engineering in A. & M. College when he volunteered to serve his country in World War I. He died in action at St. Michael, France as first lieutenant on September 19, 1918.

REGENBRECHT

Edward Michael Regenbrecht, son of Reinhold and Valeska Engelking Regenbrecht, is a native of Austin County. He was born in Bellville October 24, 1894.

REGENBRECHT

Douglas Edward Regenbrecht, son of Edward M. and Erna Preibisch Regenbrecht was born June 8, 1924 at Bryan.

REYMERSHOFFER

John and Clara Reymershoffer came from Austria to Texas and settled in Cat Spring in the early days. John Reymershoffer, according to the records, applied for his naturalization papers in 1855 and the minutes of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society list him as one of the charter members in June, 1856. He was very active in the Society, but moved away in 1858 with his wife and four children, John, Gus, Clara, and Ottilie.

RINIKER

John Riniker emigrated from Kanton-Aargau, Switzerland, and arrived in America in December 1851. He settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim locality and applied for citizenship on November 6, 1855. This was granted on December 18, 1856.

His work was that of a tailor and besides farming, he made many suits for men after he settled in Millheim. There were five children born to this union.

RIPPLE

Joe Ripple and wife were born in Austria-Hungary, now Czechoslovakia. They craved a pioneer life in Texas. Cat Spring was the chief settlement in Austin County for German Czechs. They left Europe in 1851 and from Galveston they came to Cat Spring to settle for a few years. They moved to Frelsburg near Schulenburg where they lived to a ripe old age. The ship in which they crossed the ocean was called the "Unfortunate" for two-thirds of the passengers died from illness and were buried at sea.

RIPPLE

H. A. Ripple is the last survivor of the Charles Leshikar family to live in the old Leschikar home close to Cat Spring.

VON ROEDER

Lieut. Ludwig von Roeder and his family, including his son-in-law, Robert Justus Kleberg, were the founders of Cat Spring. In 1832, four members of the von Roeder family, three sons, Joachim, Louis, and Albrecht, and a daughter, Valeska von Roeder, came to Texas and camped at the springs near the present site of Cat Spring. After two years (1834) the other members of the von Roeder family and Robert Justus Kleberg and his bride, Rosa von Roeder Kleberg, embarked for the United States well provided with money, clothes, and all necessities of life. The voyage required 60 days and ended at New York; whence, they sailed for New Orleans on the steamer "Congress" enroute to Texas. After eight days the ship was wrecked off the coast of Galveston. They described the island as a dense wilderness with wolves and snakes of all varieties

and the waters infested with alligators. But there were also a number of deer, ducks, geese and other fowl. They constructed a tent-like hut from the mast spars and sails that gradually washed ashore from the wrecked boat.

Robert Justus Kleberg and Rudolph von Roeder set sail on a passing schooner for Brazoria, and thence from Brazoria by foot to San Felipe over buffalo trails, through dense jungles, always watching for lurking Indians. From San Felipe they were sent to the place where the first four members of the von Roeder family had settled two years prior to this time. They were determined to locate their relatives. They were given an Indian guide at San Felipe, and some food and made the trip on foot. When they reached their relatives they found that one of the three brothers and the sister had died and the two other brothers were ill with malaria. But a land grant had been given them by Stephen F. Austin and Robert Justus Kleberg and Rudolph von Roeder also received their land grant as did the other members of the family when they arrived.

Meanwhile the von Roeder family, consisting of Lieut. von Roeder and wife, their daughters, Louise and Carolina and Rosa von Roeder Kleberg, the bride of Robert Justus Kleberg, and two sons, Otto and Rudolph von Roeder remained on Galveston Island for several months existing on fishing and hunting. Those who could not fish or shoot drove the wild deer to the hunters, and gathered wild berries, nuts, and bird eggs.

Later the family was taken from Galveston Island by Captain Scott and sheltered in his home on Scott Bay. From here they moved to Harrisburg where they rented a barn from John R. Harris until the men in the von Roeder family had built another log house at Cat Spring. They moved to this house in the late spring and occupied it jointly. This log house, badly dilapidated, still stands near the present site of Cat Spring.

VON ROEDER

Some of the descendants are: Herman von Roeder, married to Emmia Ohlendorf of Shelby. Five sons of Herman and Emmia Ohlendorf von Roeder: Richard von Roeder, New Braunfels; Benno von Roeder, deceased; Clemes (C. N.) von Roeder, married Ella Bodemann, his boyhood sweetheart from Lockhart; four daughters and one son were born to this union: Nolan Carl von Roeder, Snyder; Maxwell von Roeder, son of Nolan and Opal von Roeder. Most of the von Roeder descendants all over the State of Texas are engaged in agriculture and livestock.

ROMBERG

Johannes Christlieb Nathanael Romberg was the son of a Lutheran minister. Since his eyes were too weak to study in college, he became a merchant. He and Friederike Bauch were married in 1833, and in 1847 they left the grand duchy of Mechlenburg-Schwerin with their eight children, three sons and five daughters, to emigrate to Texas. The idea of going to America spread readily in Europe because most of the leaders of this movement were literary men and those who left Europe in the 1830's wrote back to their families and friends stirring up more interest. The decisive consideration that finally caused the Romberg family to emigrate was the conviction that their children would have a better opportunity for progress in the new country. They followed the established path that led from Galveston via Houston to Cat Spring where settlers came without concerted action, unlike that of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg which were definite colonial enterprises.

Johannes Romberg's chief interest was poetry. A collection of his poems was published under the title "Gedichte" in 1900 by E. Pierson of Dresden and Leipzig. The printed collection comprises nearly 300 pages. Johannes Romberg is perhaps the only outstanding German

poet of Texas. We find in his compositions lyric, narrative, and poetry-pastoral, romances and brief dramas.

The children were Berhardine, Johannes, Louise, Bernard, Ida, Caroline, Friedrika, and Julius.

ROMBERG

Dr. Arnold Romberg is son of Johannes Romberg. Dr. Arnold Romberg and his wife, Margaret King Romberg, are the parents of two children, a daughter, Mrs. David (Helen) Dillon, and a son, Frederick Romberg.

Annia Romberg, a cousin of Dr. Arnold Romberg, chose teaching as her profession. John Romberg, a brother of Dr. Arnold Romberg, served as County Judge of Gonzales County. John Adolph Romberg, son of John Romberg, is serving as County Judge of Gonzales County.

ROOK

Rook was a man about whom very little is known. He lived on the Constant Creek near old Millheim, perhaps before Stephen F. Austin came to settle his colony in San Felipe. This fact is definitely established, but whence he came and where he went is not known.

SALOMON

John Salomon left Germany and came to America to live in a free country. He settled in New Ulm but moved to the Cat Spring-Bernardo region in 1855 as he and his wife found better opportunities for themselves here. He engaged in farming and ranching but also operated a freight line for the government between Bernardo and Mexico. Three children were born to them: Marie, born in 1854; Albert, born 1855; and Charles Henry, born on San Jacinto day, 1858.

SCHAFFNER

Jacob Schaffner came from Switzerland to Cat Spring

in 1856 in order to have more freedom and elbow room. Later he sent to Switzerland for his mother and brother. Jointly they bought a farm in the Cat Spring-Millheim community. The brother died and Jacob served in the Confederate Army three years. Upon his return he married a young lady from Washington County. In 1876 he was elected as justice of peace which office he held for 16 years. Six children were born to Jacob Schaffner and his wife.

SCHILLER

Carl Schiller was one of the Schiller family who came from Czechoslovakia on the ship Unfortunate in 1853 and settled in Cat Spring, later moving near Elgin where he met a tragic death. One day he sold cotton to the amount of about \$7,000 and as was customary at that time accepted the amount in gold pieces. That evening, while eating supper in his home, someone shot him through the window and then murdered his wife and infant in the cradle. The murderer fled with the money and was never captured.

SCHILLER

Vincent Joe Schiller came from Czechoslovakia in 1853. They left primarily for religious freedom. Being Protestants they were persecuted by the Catholics in those days. They settled in the vicinity of Cat Spring and joined in farming with other Czech families who had previously settled there. There were several brothers in the Schiller family who emigrated to Texas about the same time and settled on farms: Joe, John, Vincent, Bernhard, and Carl.

SCHILLING

Dr. Lawrence Schilling graduated from the medical school in Memphis, Tennessee. After practicing medicine for a short time in Houston, he opened up his office in Cat

Spring, where he practiced from the 1890's to about 1910, when he returned to Houston. In 1919 Dr. Schilling decided to again cast his lot with the people of Cat Spring and lived here until his death in 1936. Two children, Lawrence J. of Sealy, and Mrs. Tina Reichardt of Houston were born to Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Schilling.

SCHLAPOTA

Franz Schlapota was born December 25, 1825, in Bohemia and settled in the Cat Spring area before 1850. He operated a gin and farmed. He married a Miss Batla and after her death he married Miss Mathilda Koy. There were three daughters and one son. He bought the Amsler place.

SCHLUENS

Fritz Schluens and wife left Rostock, Germany, because of crowded conditions and they longed to be with those who were giving them such enticing reports of America. They settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim region before 1850 and here they reared their five children, supporting themselves by farming and cattle raising.

Fritz Schluens was a lover of animals, particularly of cattle. This characteristic has been born and instilled into the Schluens generation of Millheim up to the present time. Carl Schluens of the second generation had some of the first Brahman cattle in this area, but it was his son, Fred, of the third generation who invested in the first registered Brahman bull in 1930. The two brothers, Fred and Sidney Schluens, have a sizeable herd of registered Brahman cattle.

SCHMOELLER

Dr. William Schmoeller was born in Nuerenburg, Germany, in 1856. He received his medical education in the University of Berlin and served in the medical corps of the Turkish army.

At the age of 25 he emigrated to the United States and settled on the old Bernard River where he batched several years with a Negro named Abraham as his servant.

On June 1, 1888, he married Anna Schultz from New Baden, Robertson County. Two children were born to them in the Bernardo settlement. A little daughter died in infancy and the other, Gertrude, married T. E. Gammage.

Dr. Schmoeller later moved to Cat Spring where he established a large practice. In 1896, he returned to Germany for six months to take a course in surgery. His wife and daughter accompanied him and upon his return from Germany, he located in Sealy, where again he had a large practice. Later Dr. Schmoeller moved to Houston where he engaged in his profession for a few years.

SCHNEIDER

Wilhelm Schneider, Sr., with his wife and children, Wilhelm, Carl, Georg, Julia, Fritz, and Minna, came from Offenbach at Glan Rehinplatz, Germany, where they joined the Prince Carl von Solms expedition to Texas in 1846. Their son, Carl, was away from home at the time and efforts failed to locate him; consequently, he did not come to Texas until a year later. The Schneider family landed in Galveston and all but Fritz and Georg, proceeded to Austin County where they settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim settlement and began cultivating the soil. It was Wilhelm Schneider who suggested the name "Millheim" for that part of the settlement that became a separate community shortly before the Civil War.

SCHNEIDER

William Schneider, II, married Augusta Reichardt and settled between Cat Spring and Millheim where they reared their six children.

William Schneider was a successful farmer of that community, interested in progress and public affairs. His wife,

now in her 99th year, is still alert to things that are progressive and shows a keen interest in her family. The six children are Mrs. August (Frieda) Buchtien of Levelland, Mrs. Henry (Emma) Buchtien, Gus Schneider, William (Dick) Schneider, Mrs. Richard (Tillie) Lorenz, all of Bellville, and Walter Schneider of Millheim.

SCHNEIDER

Charley Schneider, Sr., and his wife settled in old Millheim on the high bluff of the Constant Creek where he opened a general merchandise store. This store was a landmark until recently razed. In the front of the store was the Millheim post office with its many open pigeon holes and where one anxiously waited to be handed the Galveston Weekly News. One stood and waited until some customer had bought a gallon of molasses in the back of the store that had to be drawn from a barrel into a measuring cup. On cold days it was rather slow running. This store was always a busy place at mid-morning when the mail carrier would appear horseback and deliver his saddle bags. Children would also appear from the nearby school at morning recess to make their purchases; the nickle that was tied securely in the corner of their handkerchief and was cautiously released for candy or perhaps licorice. Many a youngster learned the art of trading by the exchange of candy for an agate or a colorful glass marble.

The large stucco house where Charles and Theresa Schneider reared their eight children was the home of Dr. Herman Nagel who, opposed to slavery, fled Texas during the Civil War. It is the same stucco home where Carl Nagel, son of Dr. Nagel, lived in his boyhood days. Carl later became a cabinet member under President Taft's administration.

Carl and Theresa Schneider's children were Charley, Louis, Julia, Augusta, Oscar, Alfred, Paul and Alma, all deceased.

SCHWANBECK

Friederich Johann Joachim Schwanbeck left Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, to live under a democratic form of government. In October 1866, he joined his sister in Cat Spring and the following year he was married to Elizabeth Marmak who came from Europe as a small child in 1859. To this union, five children were born on the farm which one of their sons, Oswald Schwanbeck, still operates.

SCHUBERT

Karl Schubert and his wife came to the Cat Spring-Millheim area from Schlensien, Germany. A brother was already living here. The Schuberts engaged in farming. Two children were born to them, a son, Gottlieb, and a daughter, Auguste, who is now Mrs. Pacher, and is still living at the age of 88.

SCHULZE

August C. Schulze came from Elle, Hanover, Germany, to Cat Spring in 1854 to engage in farming. His daughter, Emilie, was born in Hanover and married Henry Amthor of near Cat Spring. There were no children in this marriage.

SECHTING

August Sechting came from Hanover, Germany, to join settlers of his nationality in Cat Spring. They settled in this locality before 1856 and reared six children on the farm. For years they have owned the grant of land that originally was made to the von Roeder family, the founders of Cat Spring. The log cabin built by the von Roeder and Kleberg families still stands by the side of the Sechting home as the oldest land mark of Cat Spring. Two members of the Sechting family, August and his brother, are still living on the old home place.

SENS

Herman Sens and wife came from Mechlenburg, Schwerin, Germany, in 1847 and settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim area. Six children blessed their union, four sons and two daughters, Fritz, Charles, Heinrich, Herman, Mrs. Sens Johse and Mrs. Willie Bueckmann.

SEVERIN

John Severin came from Germany to better their living conditions. Through other German emigrants they had heard of the beautiful hills, fertile valleys, abundance of wood and water in the Cat Spring-Millheim area and here they settled on a farm in 1867. John Severin was married twice and eight children were born to these unions.

Four children by his first marriage are still living, Henry Severin, age 85; Minnie, age 83; Bertha, age 80; and Mrs. Frank Perry, age 77. O. A. Severin of Bellville, is the only son by the second marriage.

SIEVERT

Heinrich Sievert emigrated from Breslau, Germany, and settled in Cat Spring prior to 1850. His wife had passed away in the old country and he came to the new world to begin life anew and try to forget his sorrow. The first few years he made and burned bricks and later he engaged in farming.

SODER

Soder came to the Cat Spring area in the early days from Austria-Hungary. Later, he sold his place to Luedecke and moved farther west where he opened a store. Unfortunately, a murder was committed in his store, when someone shot his clerk. The Soders became alarmed and returned to the old country. They had no children.

STASNEY

Thomas Stasney came to Cat Spring with his parents from Fayetteville, Texas, in 1860 and in a few years he married Matilda Glueck. They did some farming and worked at the Zubicek gin to support their family of three children.

STRAUSS

Heinrich Strauss, Sr., left Hamburg about 1870 and came to Texas. He landed in Galveston and came by ox-wagon to his new home seven miles west of Cat Spring. Here they reared their five children, Louis, Jake, Henry, Jr., John, and Meta.

STUESEL

Kasper Stuessel came from Germany to America and settled in Cat Spring in 1846. His wife, Henrietta Michaelis, came over in 1854 and the couple established their home on a farm at Cat Spring where they reared their six children. Kasper Stuessel's older brother, as was the custom in Germany, had inherited all the family property and hence Kasper felt that America would afford a better opportunity to him for advancement in life.

SUHR

Joachim Suhr and Elizabeth Keding were both born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany. They met in the Cat Spring area after coming to Texas and were married in 1852 and engaged in farming. Their children were Henry, William, August, Ida, Augusta, Emma, and Tony. Joachim Suhr served in the Confederate army and saw action when the Federal forces attacked Galveston. All their children settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim territory as farmers.

August Suhr, son of Joachim and Elizabeth Suhr, was born in Cat Spring and his children were reared in this

locality. He was a member of the first brass band in Cat Spring, directed by Pof. Charles Loescher. Of his four children, two are surviving.

Descendants: Hugo Suhr, appointed as Post Master of Cat Spring in 1935 in which capacity he has served since; Miss Clara Suhr, daughter of August and Ottilie Suhr; Mrs. Fritz J. (Janice Suhr) Engelking, daughter of Hugo and Lena Ladig Suhr; Henry Suhr, son of August and Ottilie Keding Suhr, was born and reared in Cat Spring. He was employed in Franz Langhammer's store in old Cat Spring; Henry J. Suhr, son of Henry and Frances Suhr, was first mail carrier of rural route in Cat Spring in 1908; Angeline M. Suhr, daughter of Henry and Frances Suhr; E. H. Suhr, son of Henry and Frances Suhr; Delmar Ed Suhr, son of Henry J. Suhr; Bill Suhr, Sr., son of August and Ottilie Suhr, followed the trade of carpenter and reared his family in Cleveland community not far from Cat Spring; Bill Suhr, Jr., Baptist minister in Aleif; and Dell Elizabeth Suhr, daughter of Bill Suhr, Sr.

SWEARINGEN

Elemeleck Swearingen, Sr., originally came from Holland to Pennsylvania and then on to Kentucky where he met and married Angelina Weeks. He and his wife chose to come to Texas in 1830 and settled on the M. A. Allen grant in the Cat Spring-Millheim area. His wife was the first white woman to make a home in Millheim and experienced many hair-raising incidents due to the Indians. Sixteen children were born to this couple of which only nine lived. The Swearingens followed farming and ranching.

TAILE

Taile, or perhaps Tyle, settled in Millheim in 1835 on the land that later became the Bolten place. He was an efficient agriculturist and tried to raise an improved variety of sheep. He also planted plum trees on this farm. This be-

came a plum thicket and people in this neighborhood eagerly gathered these plums for years after he had moved away.

THEUMAN

Ernest Ludwig Theuman left his native country, Prussia, and came to Texas from Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, prior to 1856. He came to live and enjoy the American way of life, settling in Cat Spring. He was one of the charter members of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society. He served as a Texas Ranger and was wounded by an arrow shot by Indians as his horse fell in a rocky creek. He also served in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier. About 1870, Theuman and Caroline Palm were united in marriage and to this union six children were born. They moved to Hempstead where he taught bookkeeping and foreign languages.

TRENCKMANN

Andreas Friederich Trenckmann, leader of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society which was organized in June 1856, came from Magdeburg, Germany. He left the old country because he wanted to live under a democratic form of government and wanted to get away from Prussian militarism. He was in sympathy with the democratic uprising of 1848. He settled on the Bernard near Cat Spring in 1853 on a farm he purchased from the poet, Johannes Romberg. Later, he and his wife moved to Millheim because he liked the natural environment in that locality. He farmed and operated a gin and a small store.

TRENCKMANN

Wilhelm Andreas Trenckmann was born and educated near Magdeburg, Prussia. After graduating from the normal school, he opened a private school in Magdeburg and became very prominent. He was in sympathy with the

democratic uprising in 1848 and was appointed a member of a delegation to ask the King for political reform. He left Prussia and came to Texas in 1853 and after living a few years in the Cat Spring-Bernardo area, he bought a farm at Millheim. In addition to farming, he operated a cotton gin and a small store for the convenience of the early settlers at Millheim. He voted against secession but obeyed the laws of the "de facto" government of the Confederate States and did not object to his sons enlisting in the Confederate army. He was highly educated, a good speaker, very popular and had an outstanding influence on shaping the affairs and development of his community.

Willie A. Trenckmann (The Wochenblatt Man), son of Wilhelm Andreas Trenckmann, graduated in 1879 from A. & M. College as valedictorian of the first graduating class. Following his graduation he taught school in Frelsburg, Shelby, and Bellville. In 1891, he began publication of a newspaper, "Das Bellville Wochenblatt," which he published in Bellville until August, 1909, when he moved to Austin. He represented Austin County in the Texas Legislature from 1905 to 1909. He continued publishing his paper in Austin until 1933 when he sold it to a syndicate, but even then continued as Texas editor until his death. Under the administration of Governor Colquitt he served as Chairman of Directors of A. & M. College and during the first administration of Governor Ferguson he served as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Texas State Blind Institute; also served the Hogg Foundation as Inspector of Colleges.

Descendants of Willie A. and Tillie Miller Trenckmann: Robert Trenckmann, farmer and dairyman in the State of Washington; William Trenckmann, senior member of the law firm, Trenckmann and Trenckmann, Austin; Elise Trenckmann, teacher in Austin; Mrs. Clara Trenckmann Studer, teacher in New York City, journalist, wrote the book, "Sky Stormy Yankee"; Charles, son of

William and Josephine Trenckmann, junior member of the law firm, Trenckmann and Trenckmann, Austin.

Descendants of Emil Trenckmann: Dr. Otto A. Trenckmann, graduate of medical school at Louisville, Kentucky; practiced medicine a short time in New Ulm, moved to Bellville where he practiced for 57 years.

The children of Dr. and Mrs. Otto A. Trenckmann: Leon M., district sales manager of Humble Company; Richard, postmaster of Bellville for the past 20 years; Mercedes Trenckmann Bouldin, taught school in Austin County; Carl Otto; Lt. Leon M., Jr.; and Lt. Wood Olin Bouldin.

UECKERT

Although the Ueckert family did not settle in the Cat Spring-Millheim-Bernardo region before 1870, Mrs. Johanna Keding Ueckert gives a most interesting account of old families and their experiences in the area after coming from the old country to the new world and settling near Cat Spring. In her letter she describes the operation of Franz Schlapota's gin in Cat Spring. She relates how these early settlers would look forward from year to year for the "June Fest," the social side of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society which has been perpetuated through the years. All who ever lived anywhere near Cat Spring know what is meant by the "June Fest"—a get-together of friends from far and near to spend the day at the pavilion in Cat Spring with "dinner on the ground" and a big dance at night. In days gone by there would be exhibits of vegetables and field plants as well as home-made jellies, preserves, canned fruit and vegetables. But the word "progress" has defeated this art to a great extent for now it is all stored in a modern home freezer.

UHLIG

Friedrich Uhlig left Germany in the early days and

cast his lot with the pioneers of the Cat Spring-Bernardo community. He followed the occupation of farming with his wife and six children.

UMLAND

Henry Umland was born in Hamburg, Germany, on February 23, 1807. He came to America in 1853 and settled in Austin County near Burleigh, later moving into the Cat Spring district. Although he was a registered cabinet maker by trade, he resorted to farming in Texas. He was August Umland's father. Henry Umland joined the Cat Spring Agricultural Society as a charter member in June 1856.

VORBECK

Johann and his bride, nee Mary Wittenburg, came from Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, immediately after their wedding to Cat Spring to join their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Baade. This was in 1853. After the Civil War the Vorbeck family moved to Neuburg community where their seven children were reared.

VORNKAHL

Heinrich Vornkahl left Hanover, Germany, to come to our free country, America. Millheim, then a part of the Cat Spring community, was his choice. Here lived some of his friends and here was more room to expand than Germany offered. He followed the occupation of farming, and his residence, a tall house on the high hill in Millheim, is still standing where he and his wife lived with their seven children. Only one of their children, Mrs. Sophie Vornkahl Hoff, of Wallis, is surviving at the age of 86. Heinrich Vornkahl settled in Millheim prior to 1850 and took out his citizenship papers in Bellville in 1853.

WAACK

Joachim Waack was born in Germany on January 27,

1846 and died March 24, 1906. His body rests in the Cat Spring cemetery. Very little is known of him except that he was a farmer and lived in the Cat Spring vicinity. Mr. Waack was a member of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society prior to 1870 and the records show that he applied for citizenship.

VON WAMMEL

Franz von Wammel was not satisfied with the government of Germany and came to Texas in 1845 to begin life anew. He was a school and music teacher by profession, but took up the occupation of farming in the Cat Spring-Millheim region. He also raised cattle and hauled cotton with an ox team between Millheim and Galveston during the Civil War. His family consisted of five children, two daughters and three sons.

WELHAUSEN

Carl Conrad Welhausen, a native of Germany, came to Cat Spring in 1843 to join friends who had settled here prior to this. Among these was the Amsler family. Through correspondence with relatives who had settled in this area, an interest had been created in this democratic country. His occupation in his new home in Texas was that of farming. Their five children were, Sophie, Henry, Adolphine, Charles, and Elizabeth.

Among the many descendants of Carl Conrad and Marya Elizabeth Fricke Welhausen are:

Charles Welhausen, son of the above-named, served as captain of artillery in Civil War; married Eliza Amsler in 1865 and to their union were born five children: Charles B.; John, who died in infancy; Philio; Mannie, who married F. G. Guittard; and Peck.

Carl C. Welhausen, son of Charles B. and Henrietta Richter Welhausen. President and manager of Tex Tan of Yoakum.

Melba Welhausen, daughter of Philip Welhausen of Yoakum; Frank G. Guittard, prominent lawyer of Victoria; Clarence A. Guittard, practicing lawyer in Dallas; Peck Welhausen, son of Charles B. and Henrietta Welhausen, banker in Shiner; Harry Jersig, great grandson of Carl Conrad Welhausen, president of Lone Star Brewing Company of San Antonio; Gus Welhausen, grandson, for many years a prominent rancher and district judge of Encinal, Texas, deceased; Charles Welhausen, son, banker and landowner of Shiner; and Charles B. Welhausen, grandson, banker and merchant at Shiner.

WERLLA

Charles Werlla was born in Austria in 1852 and his wife, Julia Schneider, was born in Millheim. Charles Werlla came to Texas with his parents in 1854. Ten children were born to this couple: Gus, Anna, Ida (twins), Emma, Eddy, Ella, Lullu, Charley, William (nicknamed Phillip) and Julius. Charley Werlla operated a gin and grist mill. People for miles around old Millheim brought corn to his grist mill to be ground into meal. In later life the family moved to Eagle Lake where he operated a gin and also worked as a carpenter.

WILLIAMSON

Dr. Williamson graduated from medical school and after four years of practicing medicine at Nelsonville, near Bellville, he came to Cat Spring. He married Caroline Wittenburg and three children were born to this union.

WITTENBURG

Fritz Wittenburg was born in Braukhusen Mecklenburg, Schwerin, Germany. In 1863, he married Sophie Schroeder and in 1869 he came to Texas with his family and his mother and settled in Cat Spring where he engaged in farming. The following children were born to them;

Fritz who died in Germany, Mary, Lena, Anna, John, Bertha, Albert, Matilda, Elise, and Herman. Fritz Wittenburg died in 1909 and his wife, in 1924. Their bodies are resting in the Kollatschny cemetery at Cat Spring.

YEAGER

H. W. Yeager, a grandson of a duke of principality in Hesse, was a graduate of the University of Heidelberg. During the time of the revolution in Germany, he rebelled against the German government. One evening while attending a banquet, he was whisked away by friends in order to avoid arrest. He was taken to a ship in his evening clothes and with his violin in hand, he landed in New York with only six dollars. He went to Louisiana where he remained a short time and then came to Cat Spring and was happy to cast his lot with the staunch pioneers of that locality. He became a merchant in Texas. He was married and his seven children have carried on to the glory of their ancestry.

YEARGER

H. W. Yearger and his wife, Clara Yearger, came from Germany and settled near Cat Spring in 1848. Seven children were born to their union. Later this couple moved to La Grange and to Flatonia. Mr. Yearger became a merchant after he married.

ZAPP

Hugo Zapp came from Germany in 1849. He bought the Lynch farm in Millheim and lived there for a number of years with his wife and four children.

The following names are those of early settlers of the Cat Spring-Millheim-Bernardo area whom, to our sincerest regret, we have been unable to secure any information regarding their settlement and their descendants:

John Andreas, Batla, Berner, Biermann, Braden, Buback, Heinrich, Dethloff, Dolechal, Fritz Dornbreck, Gottlieb Feller, Fieseler, Fanantzky, Gottlieb Hasse, Helms, Gottlieb Kollatschny, Kopisch, Kurtz, Mau, B. F. Mueller, Joashim Palsaw, Retzloff, Siegfried, Herman Meier, Christ. Meyer, Josef Skalak, Ludwig Strauss, Adolf Wentzel, Wolnicek Wotipka, and Zubicek.

School Masters and School Belles

CAT SPRING

The man who taught the first school in Cat Spring was Egmond Bretschneider. He settled in Cat Spring in 1867 and built a two-room log house. It was in one of these rooms that Egmond Bretschneider taught for several years before the community built a school house. Even after other teachers took over, he continued to teach a private school, mostly at night.

The first public school house in Cat Spring was built between the Hirsch and Dittert farms near the present location of the George H. Prause ranch house. This old building was destroyed by fire on March 18, 1902 and all records were lost. A new school was built in Cat Spring which soon became inadequate and a room had to be added as the scholastic attendance increased. After a few years, this building, too, proved unsatisfactory when it was razed and replaced by a modern building consisting of three class rooms, a library and two cloak rooms.

Among the teachers who taught in Cat Spring from 1868 to 1949 are as follows:

Egmond Bretschneider
H. Hartmann
August Bosshammer
Theodore Meyer
Angelina M. Suhr

Stella Hammack
Marvel A. May
Glenn
Black
Arthur L. Schuette

Uhlig	A. J. Dippel
Charley Theumann, 1903-1912	Mrs. A. J. Dippel
Mary J. Hering	Victor Laas

Since 1921, we have a complete record from the files of the Austin County school superintendent, Leroy H. Grebe, Bellville.

The following taught school in Cat Spring according to present records:

- 1921, A. Backhus, Prin.
Helen Roensch
- 1922, A. Backhus
Ester Theuman
- 1923-1930, O. M. Brown, Prin.
Mrs. O. G. Theuman
- 1931, R. H. Brown
Mrs. O. G. Theuman
Miss Clara Engelking
- 1932-1933, R. H. Brown
Mrs. O. G. Theuman
Miss Linda Franke
- 1934, R. H. Brown
Freddie L. Bunge
Jerome Peschke
- 1935, A. L. Schuette
Victor Laas
Miss Freddie Bunge
- 1936, A. L. Schuette
Victor Laas
Miss Freddie Bunge
- 1937, Walter A. Schulz
Miss Blanche Pattison
Victor Laas
- 1938, Walter A. Schulz, Prin.
Miss Blanche Pattison
Mrs. Henrietta Ilse

- 1939, W. G. Mettke
Mrs. Henrietta Ilse
Miss Blanche Pattison
1940, W. G. Mettke
Mrs. Henrietta Ilse
Miss Blanche Pattison
1941, W. G. Mettke
Mrs. Henrietta Ilse
Miss Meta Ebert
1942, Mrs. Henrietta Ilse
Margaret Abel
Wilma Alexander
1943, Rosalie Prentice
Henrietta Ilse
1944, Meta Ebert
1945-1946, Mrs. Dell W. Shannon
Mrs. Jewel Kelley
1947, Gretchen R. Wernecke
1948, Gretchen R. Wernecke
1949, Herma Ripple

CLARKESVILLE

As the Cat Spring area became more densely settled, schools were established in Clarksville, Cleveland, and Neuburgh. There is no record when these schools were established, but it is known to be before 1894. Descendants of early settlers give the following name of teachers:

Clarksville School, August Bosshammer, F. F. Kouse, Charles Theumann, Charles Gruener, and Edwin H. Suhr.

Cleveland School, Peter Engelking, Charles Gruener, F. C. Kloss, Miss Mikolinski, Della Lescovski, Miss Jalloway, Mrs. DuBose, and Mrs. Louis Machemehl.

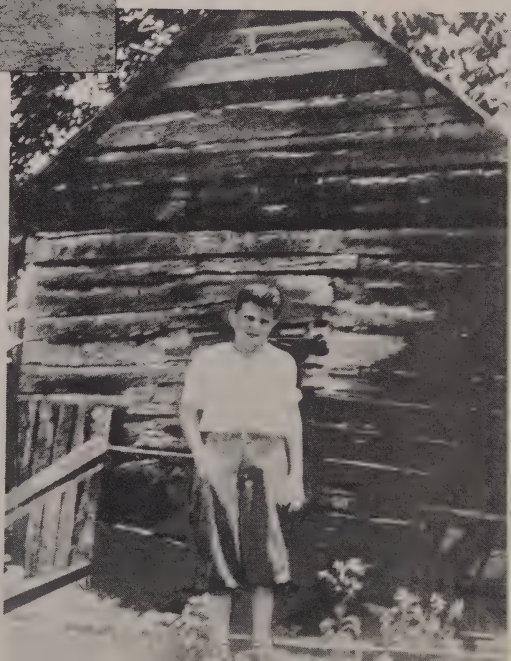
Neuburgh School, Ferdinand Guenther, Mary Welhausen, Sigismund Engelking II, Fred C. Kloss, Minna Regenbrecht, Clara Regenbrecht, Peter Engelking, Lora

Twenty-fifth anniversary
 Fest of the Cat Spring
 Agricultural Society
 at Cat Spring, Texas,
 June 6, 1881



Meeting of the Cat Spring
 Agricultural Society held
 October 26, 1884

Cabin built by the first von
 Roeders who came to Texas
 seeking a location for their fam-
 ily. Richard M. Klebert on pic-
 ture.





First public school house of Cat Spring, Texas, built in 1876

Teacher
Prof. Thomas Meyer

Trustees
Samuel Gloor, president
C. Dittert, treasurer
Dr. F. A. Schmidt, secretary

Queen Court at the 75th anniversary celebration of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society.

Back row, l. to r.: Leslie Doleshal, Verna Kollatschny, Andrew Dittert, Evelyn Hassler, Finley Dittmar, Anita Seigert, Adolph Kollatschny, Hilda Kollatschny, Lea Hintze.

Front row, l. to r.: Hazel Fricke, Leslie Reibenstein, Anita Kuehn, Janice Suhr, Lonnie Skalak, Hilmer Fricke, King, Evelyn Strauss, Queen, Bernita Eckardt, Dorothy Skeen, Myrtle Mae Michaelis, Jack Skeen, Leola Kretzschmar.

Attendants in queen's court but not in picture: Lester Gross, Estelle Severin, Charles M. Sander, Dottie Mae Meyer.



Loesscher Band

Standing l. to r., Louis Loesscher, Frank Eckelberg, Loesscher, August Suhr, Henry Dittert, Reinhardt Tag. Seated l. to r., Adolph Kollatschny, Chas. Dittert, Wm. Dittert, August Keding.

Present-day Cat Spring Agricultural hall with the U.S. flag that was presented to the Society at their 50th anniversary celebration and the Society banner.



50th Anniversary Fest
of the Cat Spring
Agricultural Society
June 1906



First A. & M. College
Band organized 1895



Left to right—Kohn, Waco;
Jenkins, Bryan; Woods, Del
Rio; Mathis, Rockport;
D'Echoux, New Orleans;
Duggon, San Saba; Wil-
liams, Austin; Bretschneider,
Cat Spring; Amthor, Pleas-
ant Hill; Gustermann (head
showing), Houston; Morse,
Carothern, Sulphur Spring;
Bittle, College Station.

Mr. Hassler's oxens
with Fritz Huber,
driver



Dr. J. W. Bostich,
with daughters,
Left to right
Addie and Pearl



Dr. Wm. Schmoeller
and family

The hospital that Dr. Schmoeller built in Cat Spring in the early 1890's. Dr. Schmoeller studied surgery in Germany for six months. The day he returned his hospital was destroyed by fire.



The diploma awarded to the Austin County Agricultural Society (name changed later to Cat Spring Agricultural Society).



Regenbrecht, Herman Bretschneider, Otto Kroener, Henrietta Roensch, Ethel Cummings, Raymond Hodges, and Dora Thomas.

MILLHEIM

The first school of the Cat Spring-Millheim area was conducted by Ernst Gustav Maetze in the home of Ferdinand F. Engelking in Millheim. This school was opened in 1850 with two pupils, Sigismund Engelking and Anna Hagemann. Neighbor children soon enrolled and it was not long before it became known that Millheim had an excellent school conducted by an unusually good teacher. E. G. Maetze was a university graduate and a very highly educated man. Students soon enrolled from various localities including Houston, Richmond, Shelby, Fayetteville, and settlements in DeWitt County. Among these were Rudolph and Marcus Kleberg, Carl Nagel, W. D. Cleveland, Wm. E. A. Keuffel and others who became very successful and prominent men.

A small building was erected by the side of the Engelking home for a school building, but this soon became too small and a larger school house was built mid-way between the Engelking and Kloss homes. This school house was destroyed by fire set during the Civil War by a soldier who passed through that area.

The Millheim area, like all the South, experienced very hard times after the Civil War, but E. G. Maetze reopened the school and conducted it on the front porch of his residence. Stumps were pulled up, smoothed on top, and rolled up to the porch to serve as seats. The floor of the porch was used as a writing desk. Money was scarce but the determination to give their children an education was foremost in the minds of these people. A meeting was held in the home of Andreas F. Trenckmann and it was decided to rebuild the school house. Some were able to contribute money, others offered to haul lumber from the Spring creek saw mill and still others pledged their labor.

School opened in the new school house on the day after Easter in 1867. It was a plain building of weather stripping—not a palace, but comfortable being sheltered on the north by a grove of trees. Later, the building was ceiled and a little portico added in front to protect the entrance against rain. Wall maps and blackboards were provided. About 60 pupils enrolled and Mrs. Maetze and daughter, Ida, assisted with the teaching. Tuition was paid in advance on the first of the month, a \$20.00 gold piece if possible as paper money was worthless at that time.

A rather unique custom prevailed. If four children from the same family attended school at the same time, the fourth child was exempt from tuition. English was translated orally and in writing into German and vice versa. Writing was done mostly on slates, but some paper and ink were used; ink made of oak gall balls. The teachers of Millheim were:

E. G. Maetze, Mrs. Maetze, and Ida Maetze	
Sartoff	Bill Du Bose
Sigismund Engelking	A. C. Theumann
Marie Engelking	Friederich C. Kloss
C. F. W. Reinicke	Delores Ebert
Wolf Dewall	Victor Witte
Luedemann	Carline Caldwell

Let Freedom Ring!

TRUE TO THE GERMAN LOVE FOR EDUCATION, about 51 farmers, doctors and business men met December 1, 1875, and organized the first Public School Society of Cat Spring. Of the more important sections of the original minutes and by-laws are the following:

“The purpose of this Society shall be to establish and build a school house that will meet the requirements with reference to proper size, safety, convenience, and to guarantee our children a good education. To accomplish this we have, therefore, drawn up the following by-laws:

“First, the Society solemnly declares that religious instructions would be forever excluded from the curriculum, and the use of the school house for religious services would be strictly and forever forbidden.

.

“Eleventh, Parents who are not members must pay an annual tuition of \$2.00 per child. The board of trustees shall have the right to admit children free. If their parents were not able to pay the tuition, it is to be paid by the Society.

.

“Thirteenth, Every member must pay the annual dues of 50c to help pay for the necessary expenses that may occur.

“Finally, It is resolved that as soon as the Society’s funds permit it, the Society would pay the tuition for all children whose parents are in financial stress.

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“Amendment Two, If any member took the liberty to criticize the teacher, or openly slanders without cause the school Society, or do things that were detrimental to the welfare of the school, he would, if two-thirds of the members sustain the action, be openly dismissed from the Society, and should not be permitted to send his children to the school.”

The Church Bells Toll

THE GERMAN SETTLERS at Cat Spring who were so greatly interested in agriculture, education, literature, music, and art, manifested little interest in religion. A number of these settlers who showed so little interest in religion were descendants of religious parents. Some of their sires were Lutheran pastors in Germany. They were descendants of those men and women who, when writing the constitution for the first public school of Cat Spring, excluded religious instruction from the curriculum of the school.

The German settlers of Cat Spring worshipped free land, free air and sunshine and freedom to work out their own social and economic problems. Their descendants have maintained and cherished this attitude.

Perhaps the first church or congregation was organized by Rev. Louis Cachand Erdvenberg. He landed in Houston in December, 1839, and there organized a Lutheran congregation. He was forced to leave Houston for his health and to seek a higher altitude. His travels in 1840 led him through Cat Spring, Industry and other places where he organized congregations. He organized the First Evangelical Church at Cat Spring in 1840. Some of his parishners were the Amslers, Stoeltges, von Roeders, Klebergs, and Dannkers. His influence in religion and educational endeavors were far-reaching.

Following Rev. Erdvenberg was the Rev. Bergmann, teacher, farmer and theologian. Rev. Bergmann preached in a small church near Cat Spring. In later years the church was discontinued. A new church was built at New Burg in 1877, a small German settlement about seven miles west of Cat Spring.

Cat Spring was without a church until 1927 when the old church at New Burg was torn down and rebuilt at Cat Spring. This work was accomplished by Rev. Poch of Bellville. During all the years of struggle, the Lutheran Church was the only one to survive.

The present congregation has about 35 members. Pastors serving the congregation after Rev. Bergmann were the Reverends Gerstmann, Lens, Harder, Szillat, and Otto Lindberg, all of Frelsburg; Poch and Schlisser of Bellville, Wolff of Eagle Lake, and Mansur of Welcome, Weber and Mohr, of Bellville, Warnecke and Ottmer of Cat Spring.

Strike Up the Bands

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS of the early settlers consisted mainly of bass violins, accordions, and violins. They gathered at the home of some friend and danced to the music of the accordion or violin while a broomstick, pulled across the floor in an upright position substituted for the bass violin or string bass. About the year 1887, Professor Charles Loescher organized a brass band and an orchestra. After a few years August Suhr took over as director of this band and later Ben Prause took charge of it.

Another brass band that came into existence in the Cat Spring area was organized by Frank Bednar and was known as True Blue Band.

Bands were organized at the Bernardo by Arnold Prause, Professor Rudolph Goebel, and Fritz Netzel. August Suhr and Walter Hillboldt organized and directed bands at Millheim.

Members of a ladies band were Oillie Dittert, Emma Dittert, Lizzie Dittert, Mary Dittert, Emma Suhr, Antonie Suhr, Emily Peters and Emelie Loescher.

A choir was also organized with these male members: William Dittert, Edmund Peters, August and William Suhr. Ladies of this choir were Regina Doleschall Manor, Edith Doleschall Meissner, Emily Peters Meyer, Lizzie Mayer Froebel, Tillie Dittert Suhr, Emma Dittert Kolatschny, and Lizzie Dittert Reibenstein.

Mail Calls

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS of the Post Office Department now in custody of the General Service Headquarters, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C., the following persons served as Postmasters in Cat Spring, Texas:

NAMES	DATE OF APPOINTMENT
Charles C. Amsler	December 13, 1853
Edwin H. Clark	September 4, 1854
Frederick Peters	March 27, 1866
August Kinkler	May 11, 1886
Julius Karger	May 18, 1892
Minna Hassler	August 22, 1893
Charles May	December 30, 1896
Julius Karger	September 11, 1897
Charles Theumann	October 20, 1914
Pearl A. Kersten	September 27, 1915
George H. Fricke	May 3, 1922
Lawrence D. Karger	February 28, 1929
Hugo Suhr	February 21, 1935

The first rural delivery route 1, Cat Spring, Texas, was established February 1, 1908, with Henry J. Suhr as regular carrier. He was followed by Leo Dittert, Walter Bretschneider, and Wm. J. Schaffner who is now serving the route as temporary carrier. (October 25, 1955.)

Come to Order

OFFICERS OF THE CAT SPRING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1856-1956

PRESIDENT

A. F. Trenckmann, 1856, 1857, 1859, 1860,
1868, 1869, 1871-1873

Mr. Kloss, 1858

E. G. Maetze, 1861

*Alex Himley, 1865

A. Regembrecht, 1866, 1867-1870

Frederick Eckelberg, 1874

J. Peters, 1875-1876, 1879

H. Hassler, 1877, 1878, 1880-1881

Albert Malechek, 1882-1884, 1896

Joa. Suhr, 1885-1893, 1897-1901

H. Wilke, 1884, 1895

John Marten, 1902

John Strauss, 1903-1916

Christ. Dittert, 1917-1919, 1928-1941

William Andreas, 1920-1927

Edmund Reibenstein, 1942-1956

*No officers were elected when the Society disbanded during the Civil War (1862-1864).

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Rev. Bergmann, 1856
A. Hagemann, 1857
Mr. Welhausen, 1858
Alex Himley, 1859, 1860, 1866, 1870
A. F. Trenckmann, 1865-1867
W. Keuffel, 1861
Max Meissner, 1868-1869, 1875
Glaum, 1871
J. Peters, 1872, 1873
H. Hassler, 1874
T. Schaffner, 1876
H. Sens, 1877
F. Schluens, 1878, 1880-1881
Ludwig Eckelberg, 1882
W. Koeppen, 1879
Joa. Suhr, 1883-1884
H. Barden, 1885
Fritz Schwanbeck, 1886-1888
Ch. Thiele, 1889-1891
John Schwanbeck, 1892-1896, 1898-1902
Christ. Pless, 1897
Gust. Renken, 1903-1913, 1918
Carl Hirsch, 1914
Joe Caletka, 1915-1917
John Strauss, 1919
Jacob Jousan, 1920-1924
Richard Kollatschny, 1925-1927
Alfred Caletka, 1928-1935
Ernst Dittmar, 1936-1939
Edmund Reibenstein, 1940-1941
Edwin Eckardt, 1942-1956

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr. Kleberg, 1856
Rev. Bergmann, 1857

Alex Himley, 1858-1869
Mr. Welhausen, 1859
John Hartmann, 1860
A. Hagemann, 1861
Max Meissner, 1865-1866
Litzmann, 1867
H. John, 1868
A. F. Trenckmann, 1870
Chas. Hirsch, 1871-1873
F. Schluens, 1872
H. Barten, 1874
L. Eckelberg, 1875-1876
W. Koeppen, 1877
H. Sens, 1878, 1881
Kroenert, 1879-1880
Joachim Suhr, 1882
Wm. Schulz, 1883-1884
Joa. Caletka, 1886
Wm. Michaelis, 1885
W. Wilke, 1887
John Schwanbeck, 1888-1891
August Meier, 1892
Chas. Thiele, 1893
Christ. Pless, 1894-1896
Wm. Meier, 1897
Henry Wilke, 1898-1899
Max H. Dittmar, 1900-1902
Julius Cornelius, 1903-1905
Carl Hirsch, 1906-1913
Joa. Caletka, 1914
G. H. Renken, 1915-1916
Ed Peters, 1917-1918
H. L. Luedecke, 1919
*Chas. Kretzschmar, 1920-1930

*Abolished office of second vice-president in 1930.

SECRETARY

E. Kloss, 1856-1857
E. G. Maetze, 1858
M. F. Hartmann, 1859-1861, 1865-1883
August Kinkler, 1884-1892
Chas. May, 1893
H. A. Hartmann, 1894-1919
H. A. Strauss, 1920-1936, 1939-1944
A. H. Stuessel, 1937-1938
Wilbert F. Goebel, 1945-1948
Eldert Michaelis, 1949-

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

M. F. Hartmann, 1856-1858
W. Keuffel, 1859-1860
F. Krencker, 1861, 1865, 1869-1870
J. Peters, 1866, 1871
E. G. Maetze, 1867
C. L. Dittert, 1868
August Kinkler, 1873-1875
Thomas Mayer, 1876
G. Feller, 1878
C. Bosshammer, 1880-1882
H. Hassler, 1879
John Schwanbeck, 1883-1885
Chas. Hirsch, 1886-1890
F. Uhlig, 1891
F. Martins, 1892
H. A. Hartmann, 1893
J. Martens, 1894-1901
Ad. Kollatschny, 1902-1913
Leopold Dittert, 1914
Ed Peters, 1915-1916
Otto Kollatschny, 1917-1923
H. Martens, 1924
Edwin Hartmann, 1925-1933

Ben Andreas, 1934-1935
A. H. Stuessel, 1936
J. E. Schaffner, 1937-1941
Eldert Michaelis, 1942-1948
Otto Reichardt, Jr., 1949-1953, 1955-
Hilton Luedecke, 1954

TREASURER

Mr. Soder, 1856
Mr. Reimershofer, 1857-1858
Fr. Dross, 1859-1861, 1865-1870
Charles Dittert, 1871
A. Kinkler, 1873
Christ. Dittert, 1873-1876
W. Schroeder, 1877-1881
F. Kroener, 1882-1883
Julius Cornelius, 1884-1888
Fritz Schwanbeck, 1889-1913
Christian Dittert, 1914-1916
H. A. Strauss, 1917-1919
August Sechting, 1920-1924
Jacob Jousan, 1925-1935
Ben Andreas, 1936-1938
Robert Goebel, 1939-1940
Ervin Andreas, 1941-

FLAG BEARER: FLAG NO. 1

Ludwig Eckelberg, 1874-1875, 1878-1881
A. Malechek, 1876
August Bock, 1877
Fritz Schwanbeck, 1882
John Schwanbeck, 1883-1885
Carl Schiller, 1886, 1887
Chas. Schwanbeck, 1888
H. Wilke, 1889-1890
John Kadernoschka, 1891-1892

Thos. Stasney, 1893-1895
Wm. Kollatschny, 1896-1918, 1920-1922
Ernst Hartmann, 1899, 1903-1904
Gust. Renken, 1900-1901
Henry Meier, 1902
Wm. Andreas, 1919
Herman Martins, 1905-1908
Wm. Kollatschny, 1923-1924
Gustav Bender, 1925-1936
Victor Batla, 1937

FLAG BEARER: FLAG No. 2

Ludwig Eckelberg, 1876-1877
A. Malechek, 1878
Fritz Schwanbeck, 1879-1881
Joe Renitzky, 1882
Karl Dross, 1883
Chas. Schwanbeck, 1884-1885, 1889-1890
Fr. S. Howe, 1886
Gottf. Kirsche, 1887
Chas. Schiller, 1888
August Dittert, 1891
Thos. Stasney, 1892, 1897-1898, 1901-1902,
1909-1914
Fritz Brau, 1893
Ben Meinen, 1894-1895
Wm. Froebel, 1896
Louis See, 1899-1900
Henry Meier, 1903-1905
August Hartmann, 1906
Willy Schulz, 1907-1908
Adolf Kollatschny, 1915-1916
Herman Martins, 1917-1918
Otto Kollatschny, 1919-1921

MARSHAL

F. Schwanbeck, 1875

W. Kveton, 1876

Ludwig Eckelberg, 1887-1893

Chas. Thiele, 1894

August Dittert, 1895-1896, 1901-1914

John Kadernoschka, 1897-1898

Adolf Kollatschny, 1899-1900

Wm. Froebel, 1915-1916

Chas. Caletka, Jr., 1917-1918

Gustav Bender, 1919-1923

CARE-TAKER

Wm. Kollatschny, 1898-1899

H. A. Hartmann, 1900-1902, 1915-1920

August Dittert, 1903-1914

Henry Luedecke, 1921-1923

H. Martens, 1924

Edwin Hartmann, 1925-1933

Alfred Hohn, 1934-1935

Victor Batla, 1936-1937

Ervin Andreas, 1938-1953

Hugo Hartmann, 1954-

They Belong

MEMBERSHIP ROLL OF THE CAT SPRING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1856-1956

Constitution accepted in the first meeting of the Agricultural Society in the Church of Cat Spring on the seventh day of June, 1856:

E. Kloss	A. Regenbrecht
E. Bergmann	Charles Schneider
E. G. Maetze	William Schneider
H. Nagel	Johann Glaum
E. Kleberg	Charles Necker
A. Kopisch	W. Scheller
A. Himley	F. Dross
F. Meisterlin	F. Fanentzky
C. Reibenstein	A. C. M. Schulze
C. Welhausen	Johann Laas
Schluens	Wilhelm Keuffel
L. Constant	Ledwig Litzmann
Louis Brune	G. Hirsch
Fr. Sens	C. Palm
Jacob Kinkler	J. Reyershoffer
B. Siegert	John Krancher
R. Goebel	Johann Bukack
A. Goebel	Max Messiner
F. Soder	Schneider Rinicke
H. Quensel	M. Hartmann

A. Hagemann
 F. Ramm
 H. Siewert
 H. Bolten
 A. F. Trenckmann
 W. Kretzschmar
 Robert Berner
 Kluever
 Johann Vorbeck
 C. Niemann
 F. Eckelberg
 Henry Amthor
 F. Meyer
 F. Engelking
 J. Prahm
 Johann Liermann
 Wilhelm Caletka

C. Reichardt
 Fred Mueller
 J. Mueller
 Salomon
 Carl Meissner
 H. Umland
 John Siegfried
 Chas. Amsler
 John F. Hollien
 M. Amsler
 Hingst
 H. John
 Fritz Amsler
 E. N. Clarke
 Franz Langhammer
 Jochim Waak
 Fr. Becker, Doctor

C. L. Amsler, 4-1-1860
 R. Amann, 10-1-1865
 Otto Amthor, 11-2-1868
 August Amthor, 11-23-1868
 Antag, 8-18-1880
 Geo. Andreas, 11-15-1885
 Carl Andreas, 9-25-1890
 Henry Amthor, 10-9-1892
 Richard Amthor, 6-25-1893
 Otto Aurich, 10-12-1902
 Wm. Andreas, 7-13-1913
 Ben Andreas, 3-2-1930
 Erwin Andreas, 7-5-1836
 Leonard Abel, 7-9-1940
 A. C. Andreas, 11-10-1942
 Leroy Ashorn, 9-9-1944
 Chas. Abel, 7-10-1951
 Ben Andreas, 10-13-1953
 Bukack, 3-3-1861

Brune, 3-24-1861
Barten, 3-25-1866
Ernest Buchtein, 6-24-1866
Buller, 11-1866
Fr. Buntzel, 9-8-1867
Anton Braden, 12-8-1867
Thomas Batla, 11-23-1868
Jacob Brod, 1-25-1869
Anton Braden, Sr., 1-25-1869
Anton Braden, Jr., 1-25-1869
H. Ballhorn, 1-25-1869
Bretschneider, 11-14-1869
Beier, 5-8-1870
F. Braden, 8-8-1870
Andreas Braden, 12-12-1869
Andreas Braden, Jr., 10-9-1870
August Bock, 5-19-1872
Ad. Blaschke, 7-13-1872
A. Braesicke, 6-1873
Bettlecker, 11-1873
Backer, 1-1873
J. Barden, 8-8-1874
Anton Briedel, 11-22-1874
Rev. Boehm, 7-11-1875
Wm. Baade, 10-10-1875
Bukack, 10-10-1875
Christ. Brast, 12-5-1875
J. Burtschell, 12-5-1875
C. Broksmann, 7-2-1876
R. Blashky, 7-1877
John Baade, 6-7-1878
Bosshammer, 6-20-1880
J. Beckmann, 6-12-1881
Bielefelt, 6-12-1881
R. Blashke, 1-1-1882
Ignac Benesch, 9-28-1884

F. Bersen, 11-30-1884
F. Betram (Fortran), 6-21-1885
Jos. Brod, 7-3-1887
Theo Batle, Jr., 10-30-1887
Geo. Brenner, 10-30-1887
Anton Butchel, Jr., 11-27-1887
Carl Bastian, 7-7-1889
Joa. Beckmann, 8-4-1889
John Bolten, 11-3-1889
F. Brau, 11-2-1890
Ch. Buller, 11-2-1890
Ch. Balke, 11-23-1890
Edward Braden, 10-9-1892
Henry Buenger, 1-8-1893
Wm. Bunge, 3-26-1893
Ed Bretschneider, 9-24-1893
Joseph Braden, 10-22-1893
Wm. Buelow, 12-17-1893
Theo. Brosig, 9-1-1895
Fritz Brosig, 9-29-1895
Wm. H. Baade, 6-26-1896
Otto Braeische, 3-22-1896
A. Bosshammer, 4-11-1897
Ernest Bastiam, 7-28-1901
Ernest Bukack, 9-7-1902
Theo. Brast, 11-7-1903
Jos. Braden, 11-7-1903
Gustav Bender, 5-22-1904
Anton Briedel, 3-25-1905
Victor Batla, 6-12-1931
Herbert Braeische, 4-10-1956
Julius Cornelius, 5-8-1870
Caletka, 9-12-1880
Joseph Caletka, 11-7-1894
Chas. Caletka, 12-12-1915
Ed Caletka, 6-4-1922

Alfred Caletka, 9-5-1926
L. T. Coker, 6-14-1949
Werner Conner, 9-12-1950
Robert Dehnish, 11-17-1858
Christ. Diele, 3-25-1866
Henry Dittmar, 5-3-1868
Surveyer Dittmar, 1-28-1869
Dros, 8-15-1869
Dori, 7-10-1870
Alex Dunlery, 1-9-1870
A. Dittert, 9-24-1891
F. Dirke, 7-13-1872
Aug. Dittmar, 4-18-1875
J. Debolkas, 7-30-1876
Dolezal, 12-24-1876
Denish, 9-9-1883
Gus Drab, 9-20-1885
Aug. Dehms, 9-20-1885
F. Doleschce, 11-15-1885
Joa. Drbelgot, 11-15-1885
F. Doernbruck, 10-30-1887
Max Dittmar, 4-29-1888
Heinrick Dittert, 2-11-1889
Ch. Dittert, 4-28-1889
Wm. Dittert, 5-12-1889
Aug. Dittert, 11-2-1890
Franz Dietrich, 7-19-1896
Fritz Dobelgott, 7-19-1896
Joseph Dreß, 10-25-1896
Otto Dittert, 6-22-1902
Christ. Dittert, 8-17-1902
Ernest Dittmar, 4-5-1931
Alvin Dittert, 11-12-1943
Clarence Dittert, 7-13-1948
Fred Eckelberg, Jr., 6-19-1859
Chester Eckelberg, 3-21-1861

Ludwig Eckelberg, 10-1867
Ewald, 5-8-1870
H. Eckardt, 9- 24-1871
F. Eikmann, 7-2-1876
Carl Engelking, 9-12-1880
Ludw. Eckelberg, 8-12-1881
E. Engbruch, 11-15-1885
L. Ehlers, 3-25-1888
August Enke, 10-14-1888
Fritz Ewald, 6-24-1894
Carl Eckelberg, 6-21-1896
Wm. G. Ewald, 9-12-1909
Arthur Ewald, 3-2-1930
Edwin Eckardt, 12-1-1935
Arthur Ewald, 7-13-1948
Pete E. Etlinger, 9-14-1950
Franz Friese, 4-29-1866
M. Fantizek, 11-1866
Friederich, 8-11-1867
Fritz Franz, 10-13-1872
H. Felder, 6-1873
August Froebel, 11-7-1875
Gotthold Findeisen, 9-16-1877
Alb. Fisher, 4-5-1884
F. Finkhaus 10-10-1886
Franz Fisher, 5-5-1887
Wm. Froebel, 1-26-1896
Freidrich Friedrick, 4-25-1905
August Froebel, 4-1-1906
G. H. Fricke, 4-5-1931
Paul Froebel, 3-31-1936
J. J. Futch, 8-12-1952
Henry Ford, 10-11-1955
Otto Goebel, 1-13-1867
Gottlieb, 9-27-1868
Anton Goeberrmann, 1-25-1869

W. Gaedecke, 1-24-1871
Sam Gloor, 5-6-1875
H. F. Grimm, 10-10-1875
Christ. Garlin, 9-12-1880
T. Glueck, 1-1-1882
Glaeser, 5-26-1882
L. Grabow, 7-19-1885
Carl Gruener, 11-7-1886
F. Frabarcek, 9-25-1890
Hohn Gebert, 11-7-1897
Herman Goebel, 6-12-1931
Robert Goebel, 8-12-1936
Marcus Gross, 1-8-1938
Wilbert F. Goebel, 2-13-1943
H. E. Griffis, 4-13-1943
H. F. Granau, 7-13-1954
Woodrow Garling, 4-10-1956
T. Glass, 11-30-1884
Hinike, 3-4-1860
Hintze, 2-17-1861
Howe, 3-21-1861
H. Hassler, 3-25-1866
Carl Hillbold, 3-25-1866
F. Hillbold, 3-25-1866
Johann Hoff, 6-24-1866
Wilhelm Helwig, 6-24-1866
Dr. Hanke, 11-1866
H. Hoppe, 8-11-1867
G. Haak, 2-17-1867
H. Heyne, 11-20-1868
Gottlieb Hasse, 9-27-1868
Holz, 1-25-1869
W. Hinkel, 3-1870
Carl Hartmann and David, 10-1870
D. Hartmann, 1-24-1871
D. Heidmann, 6-27-1871

Max Hagemann, 8-24-1871
Carl Hinsen, 8-1873
H. Hennicke, 4-18-1875
Joh. Hoerning, 7-11-1875
H. Hoppe, 5-6-1875
R. Heine, 8-18-1875
Huelke, 3-1876
Isaac Huber, 7-30-1876
F. Hins, 12-24-1876
Ludwig Hillbold, 4-5-1884
Fritz Howe, 6-1-1884
H. Hess, 5-24-1885
Carl Hirsch, 4-18-1886
Ch. Hintze, 11-7-1886
Joa. Helms, 12-5-1886
Charles Hassler, 6-7-1889
Wm. Howe, 11-3-1889
Joseph Heneke, 12-1-1889
Hiffana, 8-25-1890
Ernest Hartmann, 10-9-1892
Henry A. Hartmann, 1-29-1893
F. Hillpold, 11-26-1893
Carl Hoff, 7-16-1896
John Holliem, 8-13-1902
Leon Henrichsen, 11-12-1902
Levis Hoppe, 12-7-1903
Aug. Hohle, 12-27-1903
Carl Hassler, 6-18-1905
Hy Huber, 6-18-1905
Edwin Hartmann, 11-24-1923
Alfred Hahn, 4-5-1931
Walter Hillboldt, 9-1-1934
Willie Hillboldt, 2-14-1939
Clarence Himley, 12-11-1946
Leroy L. Hillboldt, 12-11-1946
Emil Howe, 1-13-1948

Allan Hillboldt, 5-15-1948
Hugo Hartmann, 7-14-1953
Melton Ilse, 2-14-1934
Milton Ilse, 2-14-1939
Winzel Janicheck, 11-1866
Carl Johse, 8-11-1867
Joh. Jackel, 7-11-1875
Hart John, 5-25-1888
Paul Janssen, 1-13-1889
Adolph Jacobi, 7-3-1892
J. Johse, 7-23-1893
Jake Jousan, 3-15-1903
Alex Kloss, 11-1866
Kleberg, 1-13-1867
E. Koenig, 9-19-1869
John Kohlhoff, 1-16-1884
Christian Koerth, 11-2-1868
Kinkler, 8-15-1869
W. Koeppen, 10-9-1870
August Kinkler, 1-29-1871
Gottlieb Kollatschny, 6-24-1871
A. Kveton, 9-24-1871
Traugot Kroenert, 6-16-1872
Willhelm Keyser, 11-10-1872
Wenzel Kveton, 3-1-1874
D. Kohlkoff, 10-10-1872
Kullop, 8-1873
Keizer, 1-1-1874
Dora Kurtz, 10-10-1875
J. Kurtz, 2-25-1877
John Koehn, 10-10-1875
Theo Koy, 7-2-1876
Robert Kretzschar, 4-10-1881
C. Kretzschmar, 4-10-1881
John Kulo, 11-1882
John Kuhle, 11-1882

A. Kinkler, 4-5-1884
G. Kirsch, 8-3-1884
Joe Keaing, 8-23-1885
Gottfried Kellner, 9-20-1885
Joe Kurta, Jr., 10-10-1886
Herm. Kroener, 10-10-1886
A. Koeppen, 11-7-1886
John Kedeny, 11-7-1886
H. Kersten, 12-5-1886
Ulrich Kloss, 3-6-1887
Aug. Koy, 10-30-1887
A. Kellner, 11-27-1887
Gustav Kretzschmar, 5-25-1888
John Kadernoshka, 4-29-1888
Ch. Kurtz, 11-11-1888
Joe Kveton, 4-25-1889
F. Kellner, 8-24-1890
F. Kinkler, 7-19-1891
Adolph Kretzschmar, 11-11-1891
Aug. Krause, 1-11-1892
A. Krause, 1-11-1892
J. H. Krancher, 7-3-1892
Theo Kabel, 10-9-1892
Wm. Kollatschny, 10-7-1894
Joa. Kending, 7-19-1896
Adolph Kollatschny, 8-16-1896
Richard Koy, 8-13-1899
Fritz Kannsteiner, 8-13-1899
Sigismund Kinkler, 6-23-1901
Herman Koellner, 9-28-1902
Willie Kretzschmar, 12-7-1902
Fritz Kveton, 12-7-1902
Franz Kollatschny, 6-14-1903
Carl Kollhoff, 7-24-1904
John Karger, 8-26-1906
Carl Kretzschmar, 9-9-1912

Otto Kollatschny, 10-11-1915
 Chas. Kretzschmar, 10-8-1916
 Richard Kollatschny, 11-4-1923
 Walter Kroenner, 8-4-1935
 Paul Kollatschny, 10-4-1936
 Leon Koerth, 10-12-1943
 E. O. Kollatschny, 10-12-1943
 Leander Kollatschny, 6-11-1946
 Max Kadernoshka, 7-13-1948
 Gilbert Kollatschny, 7-12-1944
 Richard Kloss, 5-23-1950
 Herbert Kollatschny, 2-14-1956
 A. Luedke, 2-2-1861
 August Luedecke, 3-23-1866
 J. Liermann, 10-1867
 Carl Langhammer, 6-21-1868
 H. Langhammer, 7-13-1872
 Carl Lischikar, 11-10-1872
 Otto Luedecke, 8-20-1905
 Wm. Lwtter (Letter), 4-18-1875
 Jacob Loer, 10-10-1875
 Wilhelm Loer, 10-10-1875
 Chas. Loescher, 12-5-1886
 Franz Lala, 5-5-1887
 Louis Litzmann, 10-30-1887
 Paul Litzmann, 5-25-1888
 Gustav Litzmann, 9-8-1889
 Herman Loehr, 11-7-1897
 Carl Ladig, 8-28-1898
 Hy. T. Luedecke, 9-22-1901
 Fritz Ladig, 12-27-1903
 Hilton Luedecke, 9-19-1947
 R. R. Lorenz, 7-13-1954
 Wm. Mersmann, 5-13-1859
 Sam Meyer, 9-18-1861
 Louis Meier, 6-24-1866

Mathei, 1-13-1867
Barhard Mueller, 2-17-1867
Carl Michaelis, 2-17-1867
A. Malecek, 9-8-1867
Meishe, 1-25-1869
Ad. Meissmann, 1-25-1869
F. Maerz, 8-8-1870
Tom McCloud, 10-9-1870
Louis Michaelis, 9-24-1871
August Meyer, 7-13-1872
M. Manley, 3-1-1874
Wm. Michaelis, 11-22-1874
Sam Meyer, 5-6-1875
Thomas Meyer, 5-7-1876
Oswald Mathei, 12-24-1876
August Meyer, 6-12-1881
Wm. Michaelis, 3-26-1883
Ch. Meyer, 8-3-1884
Jacob Maerz, 8-3-1884
H. Meyer, 6-21-1885
D. Meyer, 7-19-1885
Wm. Mersmann, 7-3-1887
Mechal Makinsky, 7-31-1887
Paul Max, 10-30-1887
Wm. Meyer, 11-27-1887
Carl Mamer, 4-29-1888
Melchier Meyer, 7-17-1888
Richard Michaelis, 11-11-1888
F. Mertins, 4-28-1889
Bernard Munsch, 12-1-1889
John Mau, 11-15-1891
J. Mullaley, 7-3-1892
Gerhardt Munsch, 10-9-1892
Charles May, 10-9-1892
B. Meinin, 12-17-1893
Louis Maecke, 7-19-1896

Herman Marten, 12-27-1903
A. Malecek, 5-22-1904
August Meier, 10-8-1916
Gerhardt Micheliuss, 6-12-1931
Fred Machemehl, 7-5-1931
Eldert Michaelis, 11-4-1931
Joe Malecek, 5-12-1936
Wm. E. A. Meinscher, 11-10-1942
Lynn Marsh, 8-8-1944
McMellan, 7-11-1946
Charles E. Murphy, 4-10-1956
Earl Meyer, 4-10-1956
Lee Martens, 4-10-1956
Netzel, 11-1866
Noak, 10-1-1865
N. Neimann, 11-10-1867
C. Necker, 6-1873
S. Navarra, 12-5-1886
Anton Nelson, 8-4-1889
Ohnelager, 5-3-1868
Ernest Oswald, 11-20-1904
Manly Owens, 1-9-1945
Carl Palm, 8-6-1865
Peters, 10-1-1865
Palsaw, 3-25-1866
Edward Peters, 6-24-1866
Palm, 8-11-1867
Hy. Pacher, 8-30-1868
E. Peters, 1-25-1869
F. Pomikal, 9-24-1871
John Palm, 10-13-1872
W. Poeppen, 2-15-1875
J. Pless, 6-12-1881
Chas. Pless, 12-20-1885
John Pless, 3-14-1886
F. Platte, 5-20-1888

Geo. Pacher, 10-14-1888
Arnold Prause, 8-16-1890
Edmund Peters, 5-1-1898
Theo Pless, 6-18-1905
Alfred Pless, 10-4-1935
Adolph Pacher, 12-11-1946
Harry Pless, 8-10-1948
Alfred Pless, 9-14-1948
B. Retzloff, 11-10-1867
Dr. von Rohrsdorff, 12-8-1867
Dr. von Rohredorff, 8-15-1869
John Ritter, 8-8-1870
Jos. Rienitzky, 7-1-1877
Fritz Rogge, 6-20-1880
J. Ranitzky, 7-1877
Sam Reinicke, 10-10-1880
F. Renz, 8-3-1884
R. Rescek, 7-19-1885
W. Reichard, 7-3-1887
A. Reinhardt, 10-30-1887
Otto Riehardt, 5-25-1888
F. Roggemann, 7-3-1892
John Reitz, 11-27-1892
Wm. Remmert, 8-12-1894
Gustav Renken, 10-25-1896
Wm. Robenoldt, 9-1-1895
Friedrich Renken, 7-8-1900
Carl Renken, 9-22-1901
Julius Reibenstein, 1-14-1903
Edmund Reibenstein, 11-6-1927
Otto Reichardt, 12-20-1934
Leslie Reibenstein, 9-14-1947
Otto Reichardt, Jr., 5-25-1948
Adolph Schulze, 10-17-1858
Sturm, 10-10-1860
C. H. Stuessel, 10-10-1860

Severin, 3-24-1861
Soechting, 3-24-1861
Clam Swearingen, Jr., 3-24-1861
Almone Carl Scheller, 10-1-1865
Schroeder, 11-1866
Stark, 1-13-1867
Andrew Sonsel, 8-11-1867
Jacob Schaffner, 12-8-1867
Mr. Simmes, Jr., 12-8-1867
H. Strauss, 5-3-1868
John Schluens, 11-22-1868
Fritz Schluens, 11-22-1868
Carl Sens, 11-22-1868
Otto Sens, 11-22-1868
T. Schluens, 11-23-1868
C. Sens, 11-23-1868
Carl Schmidt, 5-23-1869
Strum, 8-15-1869
Slopata, 10-17-1869
Dr. Schmidt, 3-1870
Heinrich Schneidekamp, 4-1870
Jacob Schaffner, 10-9-1870
Wengel Stoppel, 6-16-1872
Ign Stok, 1-1873
Schuetterle, 7-1873
Schelernick, 7-26-1874
F. Schroeder, 9-20-1874
C. Schmidt, 11-22-1874
J. Schuanbeck, 4-18-1875
H. Strauss, 7-11-1875
Schildnecht, 8-18-1875
Anton Schubert, 10-10-1875
F. Stock, 6-1873
F. Schwanbeck, 10-29-1876
Christ. Schmidt, 7-1877
Christ. Schwanbeck, 12-24-1876

J. Suhr, 6-20-1880
W. Schulz, 6-20-1880
Frank Slapota, 8-18-1880
John Severin, 4-10-1881
H. Schuette, 6-12-1881
Franz Stahl, 11-1882
Cel Scheller, 11-1882
A. Springburn, 5-26-1882
Schier, 5-26-1882
Joach Serverin, 7-15-1883
Dr. W. Schmeller, 1-21-1885
Rob. Steinhauser, 7-23-1885
John Schemansky, 10-18-1885
Jos. Skalak, 11-15-1885
Aug. Schuette, 12-20-1885
Geo. Stock, 10-10-1886
Wm. Schneider, 4-6-1887
L. Strauss, 7-3-1887
John Springburn, 11-27-1887
Thomas Stasney, 9-16-1888
Henry Suhr, 4-28-1889
August Suhr, 4-28-1889
Carl Schneider, 8-24-1890
John Schmidt, 11-23-1890
F. Sommerletter, 9-13-1891
Aug. Schulz, 7-12-1894
Albert Schroeder, 10-7-1894
John Strauss, 1-26-1896
John Strieder, 11-7-1897
Louis See, 5-18-1899
August Sechting, 5-18-1899
Wm. Stuessel, 7-8-1900
Carl Severin, 11-5-1905
Herman A. Strauss, 7-23-1911
Wm. Schulz, Jr., 11-25-1906
Jerry Skalak, 11-6-1927

Walter Schneider, 4-2-1932
Arthur L. Schuette, 12-20-1934
Arthur Stuessel, 3-31-1936
Milton E. Stuessel, 5-12-1936
Julius E. Schaffner, 8-12-1936
Otto Scherbig, 12-1-1937
Walter Schultz, 1-8-1938
Otto A. Severin, 10-14-1941
V. Gus Schendier, 10-6-1942
H. C. Schumann, 10-10-1944
Wilbert Dale Strauss, 5-25-1948
Herman Schulke, 10-11-1955
Allan Severin, 3-13-1956
E. Tirks, 7-1872
R. Tusal, 2-15-1875
E. L. Thuemann, 10-1-1865
F. Tipp, 7-26-1874
E. L. Theumann, 6-21-1885
Christian Thiel, 4-14-1897
F. Thompson, 11-7-1886
Anton Tipps, 8-5-1900
P. A. Tinn, 1-11-1903
Carl Theumann, 8-20-1905
W. A. Trenckmann, 7-29-1906
Phillip Ungeheuer, 5-1872
F. Uhley, 6-14-1891
Paul Ueckert, 10-11-1903
Leander Uhlig, 8-3-1930
H. Vornkahl, 7-22-1888
Carl Virus, 10-20-1895
Hy. Verbeck, 12-7-1902
A. Viereck, 7-13-1943
Charlie Viereck, 7-13-1945
Melvin Viereck, 7-13-1948
Robert Wagner, 10-17-1858
H. Welhausen, 4-1-1860

C. Welhausen, 4-1-1860
John Werla, 9-8-1867
H. Wendel, 12-12-1869
W. Wotipka, 9-24-1871
John Welschek, 5-1872
H. Wilke, 7-1873
H. Witte, 7-26-1874
Walzek, 4-22-1874
Conrad Weige, 11-22-1874
P. Walzeck, 4-18-1875
Ed. Witt, 7-11-1875
Johann Wotipka, 8-18-1875
Wienecke, 9-16-1877
J. Waak, Jr., 4-10-1881
Pastor Weimar, 9-9-1883
Joe Wittenburg, 10-26-1884
A. Wendel, 11-30-1884
F. Wittenburg, 8-19-1885
John Wittenburg, 8-23-1885
F. Walker, 12-20-1885
Robert Weber, 11-5-1886
Charles Werla, 7-3-1887
W. Wotipka, 10-30-1887
Wenzel Wotipka, 4-11-1915
George Wittenburg, 5-12-1926
Joe Walters, 1-29-1944
Homer Wittenburg, 5-13-1941
Ch. Waliek, 10-30-1887
Ed. Welshuhn, 11-27-1887
Charlie Wolehick, 9-14-1948
William Wolcak, 9-4-1927
John Zubicek, 8-23-1885
Willheim Zacher, 7-31-1898
Thomas Zubicek, 10-20-1901
Sam Zubicek, 4-14-1944
Zalezak, 8-12-1881
Joe Zubicek, 11-7-1897

Sick Calls

THE MEN WHO PRACTICED MEDICINE in the Cat Spring-Millheim-Bernardo area are listed under the following names:

Dr. Herman Nagel	Dr. Bailey
Dr. Early	Dr. Manuel
Dr. Herman Reibenstein	Dr. Rodorf
Dr. Friederick Becker	Dr. Nelson J. Williamson
Dr. Schmitt	Dr. Buckner
Dr. James Bostic	Dr. William Schmoeller
Dr. Stanley	Dr. Clemens
Dr. Paine	Dr. J. A. Neely
Dr. J. C. Schramm	Dr. Hy. Bradbrook
Dr. Charles Fahrenkamp	Dr. L. Schilling
Dr. Emil Scharnberg	

Some recollections of these medicine men:

Dr. Herman Nagel rode mule-back instead of horse-back. A large mule was his conveyance when he visited his patients.

Dr. Clemens, called the buttermilk doctor, made his reputation by prescribing buttermilk to the old and young.

Dr. William Schmoeller made his reputation by practicing in every field known to medical science.

Dr. J. C. Schramm was an expert in playing chess and was known for remaining hours in his patients' homes if a chess board was available.

Dr. Bradbrook is best known in Cat Spring for his appearance and sudden retreat after a very short time. Dr. Bradbrook remained in Cat Spring only four months. He gave as his reason for leaving, "No one was sick, no one died, no baby was born."

Dr. J. A. Neely, his successor, was more fortunate and he remained a little more than two years. He had a good practice which gave him experience in his profession. There was illness and the population of Cat Spring increased by the baby route. But Cat Spring has a very healthy climate and doctors do not find the locality to be an extremely lucrative field.

Call to Arms

CODE

Mex—Mexican War (1845-48)
 CC—Civil War (Confederate)
 CU—Civil War (Union)
 SP—Spanish-American War

CODE

PI—Philippine Insurrection
 W-1—World War I
 W-2—World War II
 KW—Korean War

PTS—Peace Time Soldiers

E. G. Maetze—CC	John Amsler—CC
Ben Bielefeld—W-1	Sam Amsler—CC
Ferd. Regenbrech—W-1	Louis Phillip Amsler—CC
Walter Michaelis—W-1	Joachim Suhr—CC
Hugo Sens—W-1	Rudolph Kleberg—CC
Otto Brast—W-1	Otto Kleberg—CC
Walter Huber—W-1	Arnold Prause, II—CC
Willie Mau—W-1	F. E. Hein—W-1
J. H. Hintz—CC	Ben C. Andreas—W-1
Siegismund Engelking—CC	Hugo Braesicke—W-2
Fritz Engelking—CC	C. C. Amsler
Karl Severin—CC	Robert Kleberg—Mex
Anton Wotipka—CC	Rudolph von Roeder—Mex
Max Meissner—CC	August Koerth—CC
Charlie Gruener—W-1	Henry J. Severin—W-1
Otto Carl Buenger—W-1	Heinrich Schroeder—CC
William Bunge—CC	Lewis Michaelis—CC
Jacob Schaffner—CC	John Vorbeck—CC

The Soil Beckons

BY E. P. KRUEGER

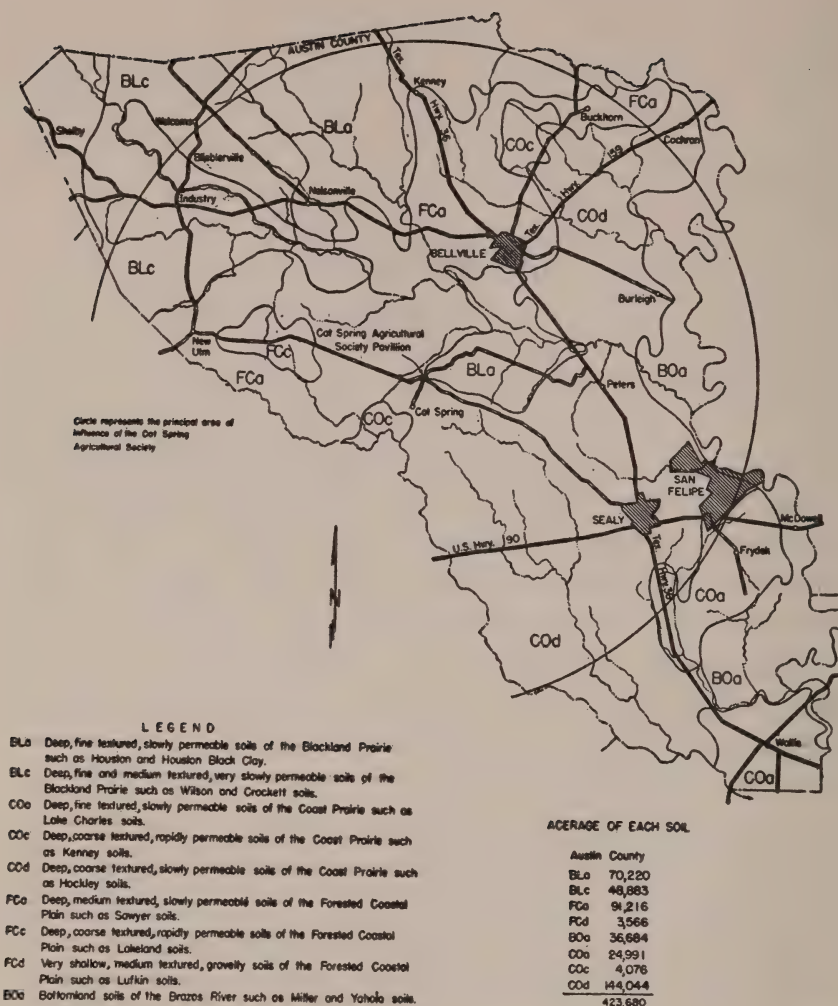
THE YEARS 1822, 1823 and 1824 were rough times in Texas. Commerce had not yet followed up the pioneer. The colonists arrived in wagons, after a journey of months, with only the few implements and short supplies which their scanty transportation enabled them to bring.

Stephen F. Austin's colonists suffered from bad harvests, years of inclement weather, and no roads. Many starved, some died and some left. There were a few German individuals in Austin's early colony before 1830.

No sooner had the first Swiss and German families arrived in 1831-1834, and had their first log houses built at the edge of the postoak forest, when the wars for Texas Independence broke out. Quite a number of them took active part in the hostilities against the Mexican government.

The first cotton crop raised at Cat Spring, in 1835, was burned by the Mexican army under Santa Anna the following spring before it could be ginned. San Felipe de Austin, which then had some beautiful farms in the vicinity, was also burned down, by order of Sam Houston to delay the Mexicans.

The first ten years after the war of Texas Independence were the hardest times the people ever experienced. To show the scarcity of money, General D. Y. Portis sold an



entire fence, consisting of 5,000 12-foot post oak rails on Sap's first place, to F. Engelking for \$3.00 specie.

LAND VALUES

F. Ernst, the founder of Industry, was forced to sell one-fourth of his league or 1,100 acres of land to buy ten cows for milk and butter needed so badly by his family in the first years of getting established.

This was later lamented and, to us in 1956, this seems to have been an outrageous price to pay for ten cows of

very questionable milking ability. Cattle were rated at \$3.00 in 1833, and as late as 1865 they could be bought often for that price, and even for less.

In his post-Civil War report, the U.S. Commissioner of Agriculture made the following statements on land values, reflecting conditions:

“Wild or unimproved lands in Texas range in price from 12½c to \$10.00 per acre, and embrace a very large proportion of the total land area, less than two per cent being under cultivation in 1860.

“These lands when owned by the State, may be had for the price of the certificate issued from the Land Office at Austin. Where lands are held by individuals under Spanish or Mexican grants, they may be bought in large tracts as low as 12½c per acre, while small tracts held under patents from the State are held at 50c to \$1.00 per acre.”

In 1883, average Austin County farm land was valued at \$6.42 an acre on the tax rolls.

In 1900, when Austin County reached its peak density of rural settlement, the average land value was \$18.70 per acre. After the conclusion of another war, this time successfully, Austin County farm land reached an average of \$45.90 in 1920.

Under the effects of the depression and the ills of the land from depletion and erosion, the average value dropped to \$32.20 in 1935, and then rose little until 1945. Following the victorious conclusion of World War II, land improvements and other favorable circumstances spurred land values to \$69.32 in 1950. They reached the \$92.00 average in 1955.

The Texas Almanac for 1954 stated the current tax value of average land as \$35.70, and the county tax rate as 85c per \$100.00 of tax valuation.

The tax rate in 1883 was practically the same, 82c per \$100.00.

TRANSPORTATION

Today, good transportation is taken for granted and looked upon as a matter of convenience. But to the pioneer-settlers, roads and transportation were matters of survival until agriculture was firmly established. In 1823, some of the colonists went on horseback to Matamores and brought flour and seed corn packed on mules.

Prof. C. F. Schmidt, in his history of Washington County, reports that one man from the upper end of Austin's colony rode horse-back to the mouth of the Brazos River to purchase flour. There, he paid \$25.00 for a barrel (192 pounds), and then carried it home on a pack horse.

THE COSHATTE TRAIL

Cat Spring and Millheim were connected with the rest of the country historically and geographically, by the famous Coshatte Trail.

Joseph Malechek was told in 1887 by Robert Borner of New Bremen that the Coshatte Indian Trail in 1831 was from Powderhorn (Indianola) on the Gulf of Mexico to Kansas, and that it crossed this country at Red Hill and over Millheim at the Canal bridge, in those days only a crossing.

The Coshattes of Texas were a branch of the great tribe of that name in Louisiana and Arkansas, and they traveled this trail through Austin County from time immemorial.

The Kickapoo native Indians were very friendly and helpful to the settlers of Industry and Cat Spring. This cannot be said for other tribes who scalped, looted and kidnapped during the War of Independence, evidently in the service of Santa Anna. The Mexican dictator and his purge army came along the Coshatte Trail in the spring of 1836.

The last Indians of any consequence in these parts were some 200 persons, men, women, and children, who passed through Cat Spring in 1837 to see Sam Houston, the

president, and make a treaty with him at Houston City, then the capitol of the Republic...

This led to the establishment of Alabama-Coshatte Indian reservation near Livingston, the only one in Texas.

NAVIGATION ON THE BRAZOS

The Brazos River and Mill Creek in the early days were quite different from what they are today. They offered distinct possibilities for navigation, the only hindrance being capital for development.

L. Constant, a member of the Austin County Agricultural Society, proposed that Mill Creek and Constant Creek be improved for navigation. This was before June 1858, and he wrote a book on this and other subjects. The project of canalization of lower Mill Creek then may have been entirely feasible, fantastic as it may sound to us today.

But for a while, San Felipe and Washington were stopping points of river steamers, and some traffic continued for a long time in the lower reaches of Texas' largest river.

Navigation of the Austin and Washington County sections of the Brazos ceased definitely when the railroads came.

OX-YOKES AND WAGON WHEELS

Without the help of the plodding ox and the creaking of the loaded wagon, this country would not have been developed.

The advance party of the von Roeders, shipmates of C. C. Amsler, brought with them a light wagon and harness in 1832.

The main party, under the leadership of Ludwig von Roeder, also brought a wagon, the first heavy one in the county. Roeder's sons made trips with the wagon, hauling goods for merchants, and on one of these trips from Houston to Austin they cleared \$500.00 for themselves.

Truck-wheel wagons came into general use, and C. C. Amsler hauled his brother, Marcus, and family, on such a wagon with two yokes of oxen from Houston to Millheim in 1840. Truck wheels had broad rims to prevent their sinking on wet or deep sandy land.

Blacksmiths and wheel wrights were key professions in the settlements. Typical of these men was Adalbert Malecek, who later became a leader and president of the Austin County Agricultural Society. He was a blacksmith and wagon maker journeyman when drafted into the Imperial Austrian Technical Artillery. This experience came to him in good stead, and he invented and improved several types of agricultural equipment at Cat Spring during and after the Civil War.

WAGON TRIPS TO MEXICO

When all other ports of the Confederacy were blockaded, Mexico was the only outlet left open. And that route was beset by Mexican and white outlaws. A number of wagon expeditions were organized from this area to haul cotton to the border and to bring back sorely needed supplies. The following family account is typical of such expeditions:

"In September 1864, A. Malecek with 16 other men and 14 ox teams, hauled cotton from Cat Spring to Mexico by the way of Rio Grande City. The cotton sold at \$1.00 per pound and 10c a pound was paid the teamsters to haul it to Mexico. Each team had six or seven yokes of oxen and loaded nine bales of cotton."

COMING OF THE RAILROADS

"Finally, the long awaited railroad put in its appearance in Austin County, in 1880. It put us in easy contact with the rest of the world in the south and in the north," according to a local newspaper in 1883.

"The coming of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe, and the certainty of the completion of the Texas Western, brings markets to our doors, and makes the land not only higher in price but actually more valuable.

"Besides the G.C. and S.F., we will soon have the benefit of another railroad, namely the Houston and Texas Western Narrow Gauge, which is already completed to Sealy on its way to La Grange. Right through Millheim and Cat Spring it must come if it comes at all, and why not? No expense for deep cuts and fills."

That was in 1883, but it was ten years before Cat Spring was first reached by a railroad.

The Houston-Texas Western reached Sealy in 1881. Many railroaders then believed that the narrow gauge track would become dominant. Instead of going on to the rich silver bearing ores of the Rio Grande del Norte, and from there to the Pacific Ocean, it died in the Sealy prairie under the name of Gulf, Houston and Rio Grande railway in 1889. It was bought by the M.K. & T. railway company in 1893 and was completed as a standard gauge road in the same year. It has stops at Broomtown, Cat Spring, New Ulm, Ordmar, Fayetteville, and La Grange.

The railroad, of course, served also for transportation of local products such as cotton, brooms from Broomtown, and pickles from the pickle factory at Cat Spring. Later came watermelons and tomatoes grown for shipping.

During the depression years in 1937, the Agricultural Society approached the M.K. & T. with the suggestion that it should install the "piggly-wiggly" method of picking up cattle at the various points and grant the same rates as if shipped in carloads.

Inevitably, motor trucking came into being. Two new highways now cross near the Cat Spring Pavilion and in 1955 the M.K. & T. moved the regular station building away from Cat Spring. We anticipate that Cat Spring will in time move back to its original location near the pavilion.

FROM SPLIT RAIL AND GREEN FENCES TO THE BARBED WIRE STRAND

The country occupied or bought by the settlers of Stephen F. Austin's colony was wide open. No fencing laws existed, except the unwritten law of self-preservation against animals, which told the planters that they had better build fences around their gardens, fields, and farmsteads.

RAIL FENCES

Robert Justus Kleberg reported in his diary, "Early in summer of 1835, we had finished building two log houses—We had also enclosed and planted a field of ten acres in corn and cotton . . ."

(This fence, most likely, was a split rail fence, as was the general custom in the early days.) "Fencing has been made almost exclusively of postoak rails. There are a few cedar fences, and some bottom farms have been fenced in ash and elm."

The rails were cut to a customary length of ten feet. Owing to the zig-zag manner of construction, with an offset of about two feet on each side of the imaginary center line of the fence and interlocking of the rails ends, a rail panel reached only a distance of seven or eight feet.

These snake line or worm fences occupied much ground which was lost to cultivation and which required much hoeing and scything to control weedy growth. They also harbored insects and sometimes the rail fences grew up into bush fences.

For protection against dislocation of the top rails by cattle it was customary in some areas to pile thorny brush on top of the corners. More frequently it was necessary to place two "stake and rider rails" across the interlocking corners to hold the top rails in place. Later it became a practice to set two posts upright in the ground at the corners and to tie the tops together with wire. This last

step in the development of rail fences is described in the minutes of November 1882, of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society.

In February 1890, one year after the Society had acquired its own grounds and meeting place, it was decided to change an old rail fence into a straight rail fence.

BOARD FENCES

One of the earliest entries in the minutes of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society concerning fences, was in May 1858. On that day, C. Amsler, co-founder of Cat Spring, showed the model of a "patent board fence."

We do not know just how this fence was constructed. Amsler, by that time, had an inn, a steam grist mill and saw mill and he may have built such a fence around one of these properties rather than a farm fence. As to the patent, we believe that it may have contained features recommended by the Patent Office which also functioned as an agricultural agency of the Federal Government until 1862.

Other types of board, plank, stake, and picket fences were also used. Postoak planks in 1861 advanced to \$15.00 per 1,000 board feet in Bellville.

In May 1891, the Society built a board fence and constructed pens for animals on exhibition.

In September 1893, the Society replaced an old picket fence with a board fence, constructed "four boards high."

FENCE POST TREATMENT

Any fence constructed of sawed lumber, or with posts set into the ground, has a special maintenance problem. The oldest wood preservative mentioned in the Cat Spring minutes of April 1871, is a white-wash formula for the preservation of wooden walls. "It is recommended to give a coat of fresh slacked lime which is mixed with sawdust

from soft woods." This indicates that our German settlers believed in neatness of appearance and in preservation.

Preservation of posts came in for a good deal of attention at the meeting of April 1873. "Fence posts are indestructible when treated with varnish and powdered stone coal (anthracite) instead of paint."

In November 1882, it was stated that fence posts last longest when painted with kerosene. In the following February, this subject was more fully covered. "In order to make fence posts durable, one should paint these with kerosene. Painted twice is better than only once, and three times is better yet."

LIVING HEDGE FENCES

By far the greatest attention concerning fencing by the Cat Spring Agricultural Society was devoted to the growing of living hedges.

The first reference to living fences was made in the minutes of January 1857, when the best method of raising and preserving of green hedges was discussed. At the March meeting of 1857, Reverend Bergmann explained to the meeting an article in the *Southern Cultivator*, concerning the raising of living fences.

BOIS D' ARC HEDGES

Alex Himley, one of the trained agriculturists and a leading member of the Agricultural Society, gave his long requested lecture on the culture of bois d' arc for hedge fences.

The Cat Spring minutes during the 70's and 80's contain numerous references to the establishment and management of bois d' arc fences. At the September 1870 meeting, a debate was held on the advantages and shortcomings of this hedge tree.

At the January 1871, meeting it was discussed whether the Society should order bois d' arc planting materials for

the members. It was decided that this should be left to the individual members.

Many bois d' arc or Osage orange hedges were raised here, and remnants can be found here and there, especially near Bernardo or the Braden settlement as it was known in the early days.

An interesting possibility was suggested at the September 1874 meeting: "It is believed that liveoak would make a good and cheap hedge fence. The acorns should be planted shallow in furrows, immediately following the harvest of the ripe seed."

THE BARBED WIRE FENCE

There is no doubt that the hedge-type fence was the most practical fence in many parts of the country. Nowadays they are planted only where beauty and gracious living are worthwhile objectives. Rails and board fences are now used occasionally for rustic or ante-bellum atmosphere of country places.

In 1883, this statement was made: "Wire and lumber fencing has now almost entirely superceded the primitive rail fence in Austin County."

Abandonment of common grazing on the prairie or in woodlands, and enclosure of entire farms, did not become general until after the invention of the barbed wire fence in 1874-75 by Joseph Glidden, and subsequently improved by others.

This barbed wire, moreso than the increasing network of railroads, has made possible the large scale settling and breaking of the American prairies for crop production. Our own Coastal prairies were not settled by families until after the speedy introduction of barbed wire fences in the early 'eighties.

This may be the earliest local advertisement of barbed wire found in the "Austin County Times," Bellville, July

9, 1880. The firm of Wood and Low of Brenham carries in stock "Fentree's Steel Barbed Wire Fence."

We assume that this was some of the flat ribbon-type wire with triangular protrusions. This was extremely well galvanized because we can now and then still find some of it on fences in 1956. That particular pattern was long ago outlawed as too dangerous to the livestock.

FENCE CUSTOMS

The Cat Spring Agricultural Society declined in 1891 to build a joint fence, not wishing to be dependent on a neighbor to maintain the standards set by the Society.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PROMOTES GARDENS AND FRUITS

One of the first acts of the newly founded Austin County Agricultural Society of Cat Spring was to order garden seeds. This activity is still carried on today, and annual exhibits of field and garden produce are still a part of the Harvest Festivals of the Society, although the vital urgency of the early hard years no longer exists.

After our settler farmers had established themselves and had overcome the setback of the Civil War and had reached a level of community prosperity, the Agricultural Society instituted awards programs for agricultural produce. This was before their famous festivals became a regular affair. It is no accident that garden and orchard produce were the first exhibited and awarded, beginning in 1874. Recognition of the important role of their wives and daughters in making good homes came also in the early exhibits and awards were given for the products of their handicraft. Gardening, however was very much the business of the head of the household.

Our settlers had large families and they clearly realized the importance of good family gardens and home orchards. The members were urgently advised to plant ample fruit

trees and also figs, peaches and all sorts of vegetables etc., which, when used as food for the family, will promote goodhealth."

Years later, special government programs were devised to promote the same practices which the Cat Spring Agricultural Society had started on its own in 1856.

The Agricultural Society elected special committees for making up the seed orders. The seeds were bought in bulk and were then parceled out to the members. Included in the early orders were also various kinds of young fruit trees. In addition to its own purchases, the Agricultural Society also received for many years seeds of all kinds from the Patent office and from the Department of Agriculture. They included many species and varieties which were sent here for the purpose of conducting "experiments" or trial plantings to learn their value.

AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION

In his report to the Commissioner of Patents, secretary E. Kloss stated on May 22, 1858, "We received from Europe fruit trees as well as plenty of seeds for the kitchen garden, but most part of the seeds of vegetables, in consequence of the long voyage, had lost the capacity to germinate."

The secretary then alluded to the arrangement for conducting the adaptation trials and variety tests, existing between the Austin County Agricultural Society of Cat Spring and the Patent Commissioner. He reported that they "succeeded badly with some of the pea varieties on account of the excessive drouth and it was impossible to decide on their value. The chocharras, lima beans, the many kinds of lettuce and clovers, cabbage, peas and other vegetables are likewise under trial.

"In this way, by means of that praiseworthy institution, the Patent Office, and by our own efforts, the enjoyments of life amongst ourselves are enhanced and multi-

plied, and the fruits, vegetables, and flowers, both of the old and the new world, by and by, will fill our gardens and embellish our homes."

The names of the members who accepted "Patent Office seed" or "Department seeds" were listed in the minutes, and they were required to fill out special progress reports and mail them through the secretary to Washington, D. C.

A study of the Annual Reports by the Commissioners and Secretaries of Agriculture shows that they were increasingly dissatisfied with the type of cooperation they received from many of the seed recipients over the country. This criticism definitely does not apply to this Agricultural Society. The minutes show that the Austin County Agricultural Society took its obligation seriously and saw to it that the reports were made on time.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BUYING GARDEN SEED

Looking back through the years, the seed buying program of the agricultural societies went remarkably well. Both the Cat Spring and the Piney Settlement Agriculture Societies had worthwhile "garden seed" programs which promoted good diets among their members.

Although much of the garden seed was bought in bulk from outside firms and all over the United States and even Germany, the Cat Spring Society apparently had the goodwill of the local merchants who repeatedly offered to include some Society seed in their own orders. As far as the minutes go, the seed program at Cat Spring was never contested.

The Cat Spring Agricultural Society decided in October 1933, that "from now on the wives shall select the garden seed varieties, and a ladies' seed committee" was set up.

The seed lists were revised from time to time. The latest recorded action in this respect took place in November 1944, when the county agent, Wm. E. A. Meinscher,

was requested to assist the ladies in selecting up-to-date vegetable seed varieties.

The minutes of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society give many specific seed names. A large portion of these refer to seeds sent by the Agriculture Department for trial planting. Unfortunately, few old seed lists, premium lists or seed bills of the Society are available to us now. They would be very valuable for the completion of historical information.

FRUIT

Reverend E. Bergmann arrived at Cat Spring in 1949. He took up farming, teaching and preaching, and he was an authority on fruit tree growing. He gave many lectures and instructions on grafting, budding and in tree pruning, especially peaches.

In January 1857, the Reverend was requested by the Society to work up a calendar of farm work, with special reference to horticulture and peach trees. This was necessary, because similar calendars published in the agricultural press and almanacs of the day did not coincide with the needs of our local climate.

Also, in January 1857, the Reverend Mr. Bergmann and secretary E. Kloss agreed to give instructions and demonstrate at the next meeting how to bud and prune fruit trees.

TEA AND COFFEE WERE GROWN HERE

Just as we see, now and then, a banana palm with ripe fruit, so tried a few members of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society to grow tea and coffee. At one time there was considerable hope and agitation for successful introduction and growth of these tropical and semi-tropical crops.

In December 1867, Secretary M. Hartmann was instructed to write to the Agricultural Bureau for tea plants and tea seeds. A letter from the Department of Agriculture

was read at the February, 1868 meeting, regretting that it had no tea plants and could not meet the request. It was decided to write to the office of the Southern Cultivator whether they had some. In those days the agricultural periodicals frequently operated experimental farms.

In May 1871, member Hirsch announced that his Chinese teaplants were currently making ripe seed, and that he would be glad to distribute the seed to all interested members.

Tea was also grown successfully at Brenham in Washington County. The Agricultural Society of Cat Spring decided in February, 1872, to instruct the Millheim mail-rider to bring half a dozen young tea bushes. Several members were to make experiments with the culture of tea. The Watts Nursery of Brenham, in a letter read on April 18, 1872, demanded \$1.00 and \$2.00 per teaplant. However, their catalog had offered teaplants at 50c a piece. Because the season had advanced too far, the Society decided to give the experiment up, at least for that year.

At the same meeting, Mr. Hirsch made an exhausting report on a kind of Russian tea which he had received by the way of Bohemia. This was a cheap Chinese tea, pressed into bricks, which is very popular among the Russians. Hirsch was asked to bring a sample of this Russian tea.

In August 1878, the subject of tea was brought up again when it was reported that Chinese tea was grown successfully in some of the Southern states. It was also believed that the coffee tree could be grown in California and Florida, and in Texas. It was stated that coffee does not require such great heat; only a moist and warm atmosphere.

The culture of coffee was actually tried here. Eleven years later, the "Bellville Times" published a premium list of Cat Spring agricultural awards listing home raised coffee.

In April 1880, the Society received six plants from the Department which they thought to be tea-cuttings but which turned out to be grape vines instead.

NATIVE GRASSES

The settlers were farmers who had broken out their fields at the edges of the postoak grass forest and of the prairies, which was then an unending sea of grass. As soon as their condition permitted they also engaged in cattle raising, mostly on free grass.

Although these settlers and members of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society engaged early in growing of hay, feed and grazing crops, these were primarily for the working and milking stock and for the hogs. Cattle grazing, for all practical purposes, was on the open range in the forest and on the prairie. Much of the hay was also cut on the prairie.

Most of the grasses they found were strange and unknown to the settlers, having little or no relationship to the grasses they knew in Europe. But nobody else knew much about these grasses, except that they were present in unending quantity and stock did well on them. Gradually local names were applied to some of the grasses.

WILDLIFE

One of the new things in the New World that overjoyed F. Ernst when he joined Austin's colony in 1831 was "free hunting and fishing" for everybody. Our other settlers too enjoyed this privilege, especially those coming from Germany and Austria where hunting was reserved for the nobility.

Under these circumstances of great abundance of wildlife with no restrictions it is noteworthy that the Austin County Agricultural Society became interested early in the protection and promotion of wildlife benefits. The formation of a Game Preserve and Fish Protective Associa-

tion, and the good hunting and fishing sports of today, are a manifestation and outgrowth of this traditional interest in wildlife of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society.

The Millheim conservationist wrote in 1883, "Our supply of game, though not so plentiful as of yore, is still such that the deer are killed occasionally in the Millcreek bottom. But men hunt them down with dogs, regardless of season or condition (does) which soon will exterminate them."

It was twelve years later before the Agricultural Society took official notice of the worsening situation. At the October 1895 meeting, it was decided to bar all hunters with dogs or rifles from fenced-in properties. This resolution was published in the Bellville Times and in the widely read "Wochenblatt" for Austin County.

It appears that the State Legislature had before it bills in 1906 concerning a hunting law. The Austin County Agricultural Society in December "resolved, to instruct our State Representative concerning the hunting law, that hunting of deer with dogs shall be forbidden for a period of two to five years."

With this local background of interest in the preservation of wildlife, it is not surprising that the Cat Spring Agricultural Society was instrumental in the organization of a game preserve association in 1933. The Austin County Game and Fish Protective Association is one of the oldest organizations for the preservation of wildlife in the State and it has served as the pattern followed by others.

BEE CULTURE

Honey bees were well established when F. Ernst came to the Stephen F. Austin Colony on the lower Brazos and Colorado. His letter of 1832 may also contain the first reference to tame honeybees west of the Mississippi. He wrote, "Bees, birds, and butterflies the whole winter through, honey is found chiefly in hollow trees.

Bee culture was one of the earliest and most intensively discussed subjects of the Austin County Agricultural Society. E. Kloss, evidently having acquired knowledge and experience with honey bees and horticultural lines started an educational lecture on bee-keeping at the October 1856 meeting. He completed the discourse at the December meeting.

The minutes report that an interesting debate on bee-keeping was held again at the February 1878 meeting. A number of beekeeping journals became generally available in those years. Beekeeping became an important side line of farming at Millheim and Cat Spring in 1883. "Bee culture is profitable. Several apiaries of this vicinity are doing well with 20 to 30 hives, yielding generally two crops of honey and one brood of young bees a year in old fashioned hives. After winters of extraordinary cold, like the last, only one crop of honey can be taken and no young hives are produced at all. It seems the cold affects their productive vitality. Such winters, however, are few and with proper provisions made for them, the suffering could be averted for this most industrious species of all creation. I never knew a man who attended to his bees fail to make it profitable; a gentleman in Richmond cleared \$1,500 from his bees, last year in 1882."

The Langstroth hive was in use on some farms and the formation of artificial and "Italianized" colonies was practiced. Some beekeepers made their own comb foundations and had honey extractors in 1883. Bee honey was a regular item at the Cat Spring agricultural expositions.

HORSES AND MULES

In 1883, this statement was made by the Austin County Times: "Not sufficient horses and mules are raised to supply the increasing demand, and numbers are yearly brought from further west and meet with ready sale."

The horses were the object of critical or admiring inspection whenever farmers gathered, as at the famous Cat

Spring Festivals and the Harvest Shows. The Society gave much care to the maintenance of the stables and pens for show animals and to their comfort. Animals outside were entered regularly. The minutes of the Harvest Fest of 1885 gave praise, stating that several of the horses from other communities were "better than our own and they won the award prizes."

Just as in our days, horses are always news, especially sporting horses. In September 1884 the Bellville Standard published an article on the methods and excellent results claimed by a fancy breeder who raised his young horses under blue glass without exposing them to natural light in two years.

The members of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society were very much concerned in the proper care of their horses, from feeding, grooming, proper rest; and when sick the horses received the best treatment known and obtainable.

The first reference to the suitability of a feed for their horses is contained in the minutes of February 1859. "Several members testified, based on their own experience, that horses will eat the dry stems of sugar millet with great relish." (Sugar millet meant sweet sorghum).

Reverend Bergmann lectured in October 1858, "The secrets in training horses are, love, patience, and perseverance." He based his sermonette on an article in the Southern Cultivator, the leading agricultural magazine in the South for many years.

In June 1879, a member gave his method of breaking a horse from the bad habit of pitching and bucking. "Lay the middle of a rope across the nose of the animal, and then cross the rope through the horse's mouth and tie the ends of the sling securely behind the neck. After the second use of this sling the horse will give up the habit."

From 1884 to 1905 no reference was made in the minutes. Twenty years passed before the next and final specific reference to the management of horses. The Agricultural

Society was becoming more and more a rural social society. Then in 1905, we find that the members debated the relative value of cottonseed hulls and cotton seed meal as feeds for horses and mules.

This entry is interesting because it reflects the predominant use of the cropland for the production of cash crops at the expense of feed crops. It also shows that our farmers considered the possible extent of cotton seed products for horse feed before specific feeding experiments defined their limits.

CATTLE

The minutes of May 1857 record efforts at removing bad quality or scrub bulls from the range. Also, that an adequate number of bulls is necessary to secure a good calf crop was put in these words in October of 1858, "It was recognized as the general experience that plenty of calves will result when adequate numbers of bulls are with a herd."

Reverend Bergmann lectured in December 1858 on the methods of cross breeding of livestock.

The Society arranged for its first public livestock show in October 1881. However the heralded showing of "improved cattle" did not come off, probably, the announced prizes were not enticing enough, as it was too much trouble to bring these cattle here in the summer heat." Indeed, it would have been quite a drive for show cattle from the railroad platform at Bellville to the Cat Spring Turner Hall where the event took place.

In August of the same year, it was proposed that the Agricultural Society should establish bull-circles with three purebred bulls. This was declined as a matter better handled by the members themselves.

The Society cooperated with the Department of Agriculture in August 1886 by making a report on the livestock of the area, "There is little to report on the improve-

ment of the cattle breeds. We have mostly half-bred Jerseys, a few Shorthorn, Devon and Holstein cattle. For this climate we recommended half-blood red Durham cattle as the best adapted breed." These are the red and red-polled breeds which to this day are very popular here.

The cattle and livestock shows became a regular feature of the Cat Spring festivals until in 1928, when the stock feature was dropped. Many details on judging and awards, as well as providing for the convenience of the animals are contained in the minutes. Work steers were shown as yokes of two in 1897.

DAIRY DEVELOPMENTS

The milk cows of which Frederic Ernst spoke in 1832 were probably English-bred cattle, introduced at a very early date in the Stephen F. Austin Colony on the Brazos. The first imports into the Texas colony, no doubt, were purebreds but they soon became crossed. Whether it was the Jersey or the Durham, or the Devon cattle which were the "foster mothers" of the first 300 families is not known to us. Owing to their good qualities as triple purpose cattle for milk, work, and beef, the red Durhams, especially the red polled strain, became the favorite cow of the settler farmer and remained so for a long time. It is of interest to note that Holsteins were among the cattle breeds listed by the Agricultural Society of Cat Spring in 1886, probably because of their size and adaptation as work stock as well as for milk production.

The cattle breeders of America began early to specialize in aiming at either milk production or at carcass production, frequently at disregard of the constitution factor. Only in rather recent years have our local farmers joined in this change-over to specialized milk or beef type cattle. On the range, cross breeds between the English and the Indian cattle became a favorite for utility type beef, on account of the ruggedness of the Brahmas in this climate.

OTHER LIVESTOCK

The sheep and goat situation in Austin County was correctly characterized by a correspondent from the Millheim-Cat Spring area in 1883, "A few goats and perhaps a few sheep are being kept in some sections of the county. Sheep are profitable in a small way, but large flocks will not thrive, they invariably die out to a small number of about 100 to 200 head. Not enough rock in the range, too many wet flats in the rainy seasons."

The Cat Spring Agricultural Society showed early interest in sheep. They were valuable to the settlers as providers of wool, and home spun clothes were made in the early days by the settlers who brought the necessary spinning wheels and skills with them. The scarcity and cost of clothes was an early complaint in the Stephen F. Austin Colony.

Reverend Bergmann lectured on sheep raising in December 1858 from an article in the "Southern Cultivator."

Secretary E. Kloss of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society became very much interested in sheep ranching. He recognized the limitations of this area for the fleece bearers and also the great advantage of the Hill Country of Texas in this respect. Kloss moved to Llano County in the spring of 1859.

The importation of improved sheep took an upswing following the Civil War. Tradition has it that Alexander Himly imported a new breed of sheep. Unfortunately we do not know the name of that breed. But at the June meeting of 1870, Himly gave a report on his sheep and stated that they were succeeding exceptionally well. From four sheep he sheared 32 pounds of wool in the spring.

The goats referred to by the writer of 1883 were mostly Angora or Cashmere goats. At the July 1877 meeting, it was stated that the Angora goat is as easy to raise in Texas as are other goats. The mohair from quarter

to half-bred Angora goats then found a ready market at 50 to 75 cents per pound.

SWINE RAISING

There were no hogs mentioned in Friedrich Ernst's letter of 1832 wherein he listed just about everything he found in the Stephen F. Austin Colony. It is very likely that the von Roeders had the first hogs in the settlements. Mrs. Robert Justus Kleberg wrote that all they had left after the plunder by the Mexicans in 1836 was a pig and a lame old ox. The Kleberg pig may be the first hog of record in Texas.

Albert Cornelius, in his letter from Industry in 1852, wrote that he was looking for a hog of about 250 to 300 pounds, which he intended to get in the spring of 1852.

Judging from the trouble the settlers had with lame-back sows, chicken eating hogs and so on, it is safe to conclude that they were kept in confinement. But by 1872, the hogs were evidently numerous and at least some were allowed to run in the woods. The Agricultural Society of Cat Spring then deliberated a request from the Hempstead Farmer's Club for a joint petition against the practice.

Most settlers found it troublesome to keep a boar for breeding the few sows they had for production of meat hogs; therefore, a motion was made in November 1871 that the Agricultural Society should buy a good boar which was offered for sale at San Felipe. This the Society declined to do, feeling that each neighborhood could provide for its own boar if they wanted one for joint use.

The minutes refer only to swine or hogs without reference to a breed, although no doubt there were classifications at the livestock shows at Cat Spring. The "Hempstead Messenger" of October 30, 1877, reveals that J. Nass of Hempstead was advertising as a breeder of Berkshire hogs.

The "Bellville Standard" of September 1884 carried an article on cross breeding of hogs.

In February 1869, it was suggested to grow patches of peanuts for turning the hogs into them.

In May 1870, the sweet potato was recommended as excellent hog and chicken feed.

Growing pumpkins for hog feed was recommended in April 1872, and no doubt surplus watermelons were used as hog and chicken feed. Cat Spring member, Hirsch, gave a lecture on hog fattening in December 1875, but in December of the same year the members of the Agricultural Society were told that the easiest method of hog fattening is to turn them into a sweet potato patch specially grown for that purpose.

Along the same line the recommendation of January 1878 was made for growing the chufa tuber. Such plantings, furthermore, had the advantage of being perennial when managed right.

POULTRY RAISING

Chickens were plentiful on the settlers' farms. Egg-laying, however, was highly seasonal, varying from plenty and surplus in spring to scarcity in winter. Albert Cornelius felt fortunate when his 24 chickens were laying steady in the cold January of 1852.

Owing to their cheapness, and giving in to their natural habit, chickens were allowed to roost in the trees and on top the rail fences. Eggs were found in the stables, sheds and barns where a few nests were attached to walls.

There was little market for chicken and poultry products; however, the Cat Spring Agricultural Society was still interested in August 1858 in an article in the "Southern Cultivator" describing an extensive poultry farm in France.

After so long a time of roosting on the same trees and in uncared for places, the chickens began to be troubled by insects and diseases. This is why in April 1875 the members of the Agricultural Society were advised to build special

chicken houses. The reason given was, "The chicken disease is probably caused by the exposure which our chickens have to endure in the cold during the winter months."

Tame geese and ducks are not mentioned in the minutes, although flocks of these were kept. Old country style feather beds made from choice downy geese and duck feathers can still be found on some German farms.

Turkey raising was specifically mentioned only once in 1880, although they and the chickens formed a special division at the livestock expositions of the Cat Spring Society.

The poultry situation was summed up in 1883, "Domestic fowl of all kinds thrive well and could be made a source of considerable profit, with the railroads now furnishing such ready and convenient access to the market."

The agricultural and the local press began more and more to promote the commercial aspects of poultry keeping. In April 1885, the "Bellville Standard" published an article on poultry farms and their operation.

Egg production for the market gradually became more important. Austin County and especially Washington County became leading poultry centers in the State and remain so today.

Reflecting this development we find reference to poultry in the minutes of the Agricultural Society in recent years, which is long after the secretaries ceased to record much agricultural details in the proceedings.

In September 1942, S. P. Babel was invited to address the next meeting with instructions that would benefit the raising and feeding of poultry and other livestock.

In November 1943, vocational teacher and poultry specialist J. F. Walters of Sealy gave some information on feeding and demonstrated culling.

Throughout the earlier minutes we find frequent reference to the suitability of feeds for the chickens in connection with the discussion of new coops.

The chickens were kept in high esteem also because of their usefulness in destroying insects. In April 1870, they were given credit as being good bug chasers, meaning cotton insects.

In April 1877, we find the following statement, "Many grasshoppers are being eliminated by the chickens; therefore, the farmers should raise many chickens, and also protect birds."

The useful roles of the turkeys in eating insects, and of the geese in eating weeds, was generally recognized, and considerable use had been made of them for these purposes on local farms.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

The situation on the pioneer farms, and to a large degree during the settling period, was well characterized by Friedrich Ernst's daughter, Carolina von Hinueber, "There was no market for anything you could raise, except for cigars and tobacco. We raised barely what we needed and we kept it."

The protection of farm products from spoiling or from deterioration by insects was a major problem. It became an important function of the early Agricultural Society to advise its members on this vital phase of life in a remote settlement and isolated farm.

CAT SPRING BUTCHER CLUB

Having fresh beef to eat in the summertime has always been a great problem on the average farm in the years before food locker plants and home freezers.

Albert Cornelius of Industry wrote in January 1852 that he had put half an ox or 600-pound beef in salt, to last his family of three until next winter.

In 1867 we learn that our farmers knew and used the old country process of brine-curing meats prior to smoking.

The following account is in part based on a Houston news feature story of 1931. Long ago, so long that few people in Austin County remember when, (probably in the 1870's) the farmers around Cat Spring got together to do what they could not do alone. Instead of individually killing beef in the warm seasons and trying to preserve it, they formed beef rings or butcher clubs. Thus, a steer was killed every week and the meat was divided among the members of the club.

The Cat Spring Butcher Club still operates in the typical manner. It has 30 members and each Friday one of the members provides a fattened steer for butchering. Every week each member gets a different cut of beef so that by the time 30 steers have been killed, each has recovered the equivalent of his own steer.

A club butcher and a secretary work closely together in cutting, weighing and recording the meat for the members. The amount is usually about ten pounds of beef per family. Books are carefully kept on what each member actually gets, so that those who take 15 pounds can pay the difference at the end of the year. Members with lesser needs for meat will then be compensated in cash for the difference between what they took and what they contributed.

The members, of course, know each week whose meat they are eating and they watch the quality very closely. It becomes a matter of pride and also good common sense to contribute only good animals to the butcher ring. Otherwise, a member might be voted out at the end of the year, and he would have a hard time in trying to join another club.

The Cat Spring Butcher club operated only in summer for many years. When winter came and meat could be kept or cured more easily, the members killed their hogs and had pork until spring. The club, in recent years, is now operating on a year-round basis.

HOME CANNING

This is also another early practiced household art among Cat Spring farmers. With the heavy stress laid on good family diets by the Agricultural Society there were many more vegetables produced than could be eaten fresh or kept for any length of time.

Mason jars were known since 1858, and sauerkraut stands are ageless. In June 1882, the Cat Spring Agricultural Society was very much interested in "an important invention for the conservation of meat and vegetables with acid of boro-gliceride."

Also in this field, the Cat Spring Society was a pioneer in the practice and principles which made the home demonstration agent such a welcome visitor in farm homes many decades later.

ICE CREAM

The first reference to ice cream is found in the minutes of April 1888, when a concession was sold for the June Festival. It probably came from Brenham.

THE MOON RULES

Forgotten are the old moon rules on the weather and on planting, harvesting and when to kill the meat-hog. Parts of the moon rules were recorded in the minutes of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society and they were also published in the local press. We do not know how many farmers took them seriously, although there were some scoffers. The fact is, most early farmers were very much influenced by them in their decisions.

The July meeting in 1872 stated, "The moon is said to exercise great influence on animals and on plants. Freshly killed meat or freshly caught fish will spoil almost instantly when exposed to the shine of the moon. Calves should be branded or castrated when the moon is on the wane."

March meeting, 1881: "Hogs should be slaughtered when the moon is on the increase. Instead of laughing at this rule, one should try it out."

Meeting of March, 1885: "Mr. M. Hartmann talked about the influence of the moon upon the vegetation in Central America.

"All plants which grow under the ground such as yams, radishes, etc., must be planted eight days before the new moon. The fruit of the bread fruit tree (papaw, *Carica papaya*) must be harvested when the moon is in the zenith regardless of whether it is a new moon or full moon; otherwise, they will not keep. In order to get palm wine the palm tree must be cut in the full of the moon."

SMALL GRAINS

Early settlers found rye, wheat and rice under cultivation, with corn the leading grain crop. European newcomers were accustomed to wheat and rye breads, but became corn bread eaters by necessity.

Small grains were also important as feed and forage for workstock, milk cows and poultry. The Cat Spring settlers knew the importance of small grains in rotations. Reverend Bergmann gave a lecture in July, 1860, on the importance of growing rye, wheat, barley and oats. Unfortunately, the secretary omitted the reasons for his recommendations, but indications are he already saw the need for balancing the cotton, corn, and tobacco row crops with close-growing crops for protection and recovery of the soil.

In 1883, the "Austin County Times" summed up the small grain situation for railroad immigrants and other newcomers: "Wheat and rye in the Millheim-Cat Spring area do not grow one year in five. Wheat has never been successfully grown in Austin County, and barley, not at all, but oats do well."

With the coming of the railroads and expanding cotton production, growing small grains was practically abandoned. The Agricultural Society, however, continued to stress their place as cover crops for soil conservation, hay, and pasture production. These are their major functions today, and a great increase in acreage has taken place since advent of the organized soil conservation movement through soil conservation districts and modern research in agriculture.

ROOT CROPS

As far as Texas is concerned, the "Irish" potato may as well have been called the "German" potato. When F. Ernst arrived here in 1831 he found sweet potatoes, but he did not mention the Irish tuber as being under cultivation.

Who actually brought this cool crop root crop here we do not know. The tubers remained a rare vegetable until the Cat Spring Agricultural Society promoted its cultivation and overcame some of the difficulties connected with its culture.

Albert Cornelius of Industry wrote in 1852 that the settlers had to forego potatoes about eight months of each year because they could not be stored in this climate. He had bought one barrel of 160 pounds of planting potatoes for \$7.00 and he estimated they would be ready for digging by the middle of May.

The Cat Spring Agricultural Society debated at its January, 1857, meeting how potatoes could best be planted. Many other references to growing potatoes can be found in the companion volume to this one in which are published the minutes of the Society.

SWEET POTATOES

The sweet potato was brought to Austin's Colony by the Anglo-Saxon pioneers, and its culture was well estab-

lished when F. Ernst and other German pioneer settlers joined in 1831-34. A map of sweet potato production in 1849, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shows Austin and Washington counties among the established centers on the western edge. The culture of the sweet potato has not spread much farther west except in a few scattered areas.

Albert Cornelius, in his letter from Industry, reported to his folks in Germany that the sweet potato, which was not known to them, had failed in 1851. In explaining the importance of the crop, he added that in good years they ate them for three or four months. He and his family had only three or four messes of sweet potatoes in 1851.

CHUFA

The chufa tuber was among the earliest introductions made at Cat Spring by the old Patent Office. Secretary E. Kloss of the Austin County Agricultural Society acknowledged in May, 1858, the receipt of 12 parcels of chufa planting stock. These early shipments grew out of the idea that similar climates of the Gulf Coast area and the Mediterranean Coast where the chufa had originated, would prove the crop to be productive in Texas.

Like early varieties of the Irish potato, these tubers were very small, rarely over one inch in diameter. They served as human food or were pastured by hogs. There is no report on the outcome of this early shipment of chufas in the minutes of the Society. Twenty years intervened and chufas were rediscovered by farm writers and the USDA. The Cat Spring minutes in 1878 stated that chufas were recommended for use as hog feed. From lack of any record to show otherwise, we must assume that the results of chufa culture at Cat Spring were indifferent.

SUGAR CANE

The first reference to sugar cane in the Society minutes was in May, 1857. President W. A. Trenckmann gave

the members the benefit of his experience in establishing a new planting of the cane.

In 1883, The "Austin County Times" and correspondence from the Millheim area summed up the sugar cane situation as follows:

"Some little ribbon cane is grown in quantities limited to home consumption, although the soil is well suited to its growth. Cane molasses yield is from 75 to 100 gallons per acre and sells at 50 to 60c."

Sugar cane is still grown at Cat Spring although its culture and that of cane-type sorghum for syrup making has declined to the vanishing point since World War II, and the accelerated depopulation of our farms has hastened its decline.

TOBACCO

The money aspect of tobacco, especially when finished into an acceptable cheroot, prompted Robert J. Kleberg to take up tobacco planting after he returned to Cat Spring following the War of Independence. Mrs. Kleberg related in her memoirs that Kleberg engaged in raising tobacco and making cigars.

Mrs. Kleberg wrote that he sold his cigars in Houston at high prices, and people came from all around to their house to buy cured tobacco and cigars.

Frederick Ernst, who founded the town of Industry, took up tobacco raising and cigar-making to provide himself with extra cash. His daughter later wrote that in those days there was no market except for cigars and tobacco. It is possible that he taught this trade to Albert Cornelius who came to Industry about 1850. Thus Ernst became the founder of the once flourishing cigar industry in the German settlements in Austin and surrounding counties.

Cornelius was not of robust health, and turned to cigar making which he sold cheap to build up sales volume. He bought tobacco from other growers and imported some

from Havanna. With the help of his wife, Cornelius made about 1,000 to 1,300 cigars a week. He sold cigars for \$16.00 per 1,000 in competition with Havanna cigars that were sold for \$22.00 to \$24.00, and were duty-free. He had hopes of building an export business to Germany and offered them for \$100.00 per 10,000 f.o.b. Galveston and packed in boxes holding 250 to 500 cigars. He planned to build a factory if the business could be developed. In 1883, the town of Industry rejoiced in the useful services of two manufacturers of cigars.

Settlers in Cat Spring found the soils well suited to raising tobacco and the subject was frequently discussed in the Agricultural Society. There is still some tobacco being grown in this area, but none is being manufactured any longer. Machines for large scale production took the business elsewhere.

TRUCK GROWING

The coming of the railroads brought an influx of new settlers who put large tracts of land into cotton. This began to cause a shift away from the single cropping system and vegetables were considered. Declines in the price of cotton hastened the shift. One thing in favor of truck crops was the larger size of families that provided the necessary labor. This was the setting of the meeting of the Agricultural Society in July of 1901 when the entire meeting was given to lectures and discussion on truck farming.

The Bellville Truck Growing Association was organized in January of 1903, and since that time a number of commodity associations have been organized in Austin County.

There is only indirect information concerning the venture of the Cat Spring Pickling-Cucumber Association. The minutes of the Agricultural Society in July, 1914, indicate that the possibilities of commercial production was discussed. In September, 1927, the Agricultural Society of-

ferred to buy the pickling vat and building from the Cat Spring Cucumber Association for \$150.00. It was moved to the Cat Spring pavilion site in December, 1927.

Other crops discussed in the minutes of the Society include tomatoes and watermelons. Tomatoes were discussed in August of 1931 when the members agreed to grow nine acres for market. Watermelons were shipped by the Bellville Truck Growing Association in 1903. By 1924, Austin County was shipping as high as 1,450 cars of melons a year, and it is still considered one of the main truck enterprises in the county.

PEANUTS

It is probable that the entry in the May, 1858, meeting of the Agricultural Society is among the first references to the peanut or ground-nut in Texas. A shipment of seed of the earth or ground-almond from the Patent Office was distributed among the members for making trial plantings.

The next entry in the minutes on peanuts is not found until February, 1869. Here it was called earth-almonds. Since that time, the minutes have shown a gradual growth in peanut production in the area, and report the activities of Wm. E. Meinscher, county agent, in promoting cultivation of the crop.

COTTON

When the Austin County Agricultural Society of Cat Spring was founded in 1856, cotton was already the principal cash crop with tobacco a poor second. When the first gin was established is not known exactly, probably soon after the Bosticks, von Roeders, Klebergs and others resumed work after the Battle of San Jacinto. The Society minutes show that in September, 1856, C. Reibenstein declared himself ready and willing to accept a 1-12 part of raw cotton for his ginning toll because of the short cotton crop of that year.

Cotton was hauled by ox-cart to Houston or Galveston, and later to Hempstead, Richmond or Alleyton for railroad shipment. Some cotton was shipped earlier by boat down the Brazos to Velasco.

It is interesting to note the many references in the book of minutes to experiments tried by various members in cotton culture. A classic example is found in the statement by Trenckmann that cotton did not have to be planted each year. Interest in the idea stimulated the experiment of leaving stalks in the ground to produce a crop another year. Results of the experiment were given at the meeting the following October, 1860. The reader will find it interesting to follow carefully the reports of minutes and reports on results in following meetings.

Cotton reigned as king in the Cat Spring area for nearly a century. But there came a day when cotton was forced off the farms because of soil depletion, cotton root rot, and economically small cotton acreages. In the Cat Spring-Millheim area of sandy soils, broom corn, truck crops and finally peanuts have taken the place of cotton. Cotton is now a "historic crop" and the last gin was closed down years ago.

Cotton was a great king and for a time it treated its subjects well. The more democratic pattern of diversified crops has now appealed to the farming population of Cat Spring.

